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Police find stolen Pajero thru GPS tracking device

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Japan hands San Mig-RP team 2nd straight loss

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BBC journalist freed in Gaza after 16 weeks

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RP seen becoming Asia's franchising hub

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Taxes for 7 Marcos Baguio mansions unpaid past 20 years

7/7/07: Superstition, marketing converge

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Thursday, July 5, 2007 / 44 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 287 / P18

RP ranks high in UN's survey on e-governance

By Cynthia D. Balana and Bea T. Cupin

Media may be bugged

DOJ chief says nobody immune from wiretapping

By Lolo B. Saavedra and Jerome Aning

JUSTICE SECRETARY RAUL Gonzalez yesterday said the antiterrorism law allowed the wiretapping of everybody, including journalists, if they were terror suspects, but a Roman Catholic bishop warned of "greater tumult" if the law was abused and applied indiscriminately to those opposed to the Arroyo administration.

Gonzalez stressed, however, that approval of the Court of Appeals was needed before anyone could be bugged under the Human Security Act of 2007.

While the ASA states that communication between journalists and their sources should not be bugged, media practitioners can still be subjected to wiretapping if they are suspected of involvement in terror activities, Gonzalez told reporters, explaining the provisions of the law.

The 1987 law prohibits the wiretapping of communications between lawyers and clients, doctors and patients, and confidential business correspondence. Government officials are not forbidden to be bugged.

Gonzalez said the law would be implemented by about August or September.

He said that wiretapping was "intrusive," but that freedom was not absolute.

Talking to a reporter, however, does not automatically make a journalist a terror suspect.

"If you are a journalist, you are free from wiretapping because the law says that journalists and their sources of information cannot be subjected to wiretapping," the justice

HEADS A1

Live Earth concert aims to change world

NEW YORK—LIVE EARTH IS AIRING soon by any standard—eight concerts hosting the biggest names in music, playing for a 24-hour period across the globe, all for the cause of global warming.

But like its template—2005's Live 8, the global concert devoted to poverty in Africa—the mission of Live Earth is somewhat amorphous. Its aim is to "trigger a global movement to solve the climate crisis."

Whatever Live Earth's accomplishments on Saturday, it will be different to measure. Former US Vice President Al Gore, who partnered with Kevin Wall in founding Live Earth, believes the world needs to (in up to nine point public votes to influence "a more political reality."

"The tipping point is the political system will come when the majority of the people are armed with enough

ARTS B1 AND B-2

REVOLUTIONIZING FILIPINO ICON: In its first nation Wednesday on Ayala Avenue.

E-jeepney electrifies Makati folk

By CJ Yap

ON THEIR FIRST EXCURSION IN THE streets of the metropolis yesterday, the new brightly painted "e-jeepneys" did not run at all.

They did not even push.

For their maiden, they did not lose, or cough, or sputter, like all public utility jeepneys do. Instead, these Earth-friendly cousins of the jeepney route their way around the Makati central business district quietly...and with many a puff of smoke from their gloss behinds.

Costing P500,000 each and running on batteries charged via electrical sockets overnight, the 11-seater e-jeepney had a test ride along Ayala Avenue as part of a study on the feasibility of using this mode of

E-JEEPNEY A-11

SC upholds 20% discount for elderly

By Leila B. Salaverria

SAYING PUBLIC GOOD CAN PREVAIL OVER the right to property, the Supreme Court has dismissed a petition questioning the constitutionality of a provision in the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2003 giving persons aged 60 and older a 20-percent discount in purchasing medicines and paying for certain services.

In coming down the provision of a number of drugstore owners to nullify the provision on grounds of financial losses, the high court said there was no proof that the provision had been arbitrarily issued and would oppress their business operations.

"Moreover, the right to property has a social dimension. While Article XIII of the Constitution provides the passage for the protection of property, various laws and jurisprudence, particularly on agrarian reform and the regulation of contracts and public utilities, continuously serve as a reminder that the right to property can be curtailed by the exercise of the State for the promotion of public good," the high court said in a June 29 en banc decision.

The petition was filed by Carlos Cachal Superlines Corp., Elsie Gamboa Asbestos Drug, Dr. Gregorio Ong of City Pharmacy, Melvin dela Serna

AS UPHOLDING A4

'Virtual' nameless, faceless con artists log on to your cash

By Ma. Salve Duplito
Inquirer.net

IF SOMEONE IS OFFERING TO DOUBLE your money in 20 days, don't think twice. Just say no. It's a scam.

Investment con artists are at it again. This time, using the Internet to cloak their identities, they are luring unsuspecting individuals into a get-rich-quick scheme that simply is too good to be true. They guarantee to double your money in less than a month.

VIRTUAL A6

US WWII hero returns to visit sites close to his heart

By TJ Burgonio

IN HIS LIFE THUS, AMERICAN Harold Owen flew a fighter plane and engaged Japanese aircraft in dogfights over Manila during World War II, shooting down at least four. He survived the war, and flew back home a hero.

But after raising a family in Texas, managing oil leases and founding companies that specialized in oil technology, Owen felt he had to fly back to the Philippines one last time on a personal mission.

Sixty years after the war, the retired captain was back in Manila in March this year mainly to see the prison camp (NCR) that once housed his older brother, Carl, an infantryman, died during the war. (See "At the Bases," Page A8.)

And he didn't mind making the long haul flights and the long drives despite his poor health. After receiving strokes in the 1990s, he is now bound to a wheelchair, and his speech has slowed a bit.

"He seemed to come. He seemed to

OWEN: 60 years ago: Dog fights over Manila.

are where he was stationed. But he really wanted to see where his brother died," his son Sean, who accompanied Owen on the trip, said in an interview.

So on a hot Saturday morning in March, the 83-year-old Dante led his wife, and sons

At the site of the former prison camp in Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija, the Owens were greeted by a huge banner stretched across the gate, two Subic Filipino guerrillas, and local officials.

OWENS A8

Second FRONTPAGE

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WEATHER FORECAST

Bedol not yet off the hook

Comelec denies 'kid-glove' treatment of controversial Maguindanao poll officer

By Nikko Dizon
and Jaime Arong

ELECTION COMMISsioner Nicodemo Ferrer yesterday denied accusations by church-based election volunteers that the Commission on Elections was giving Lintang Bedol "kid-glove treatment," announcing that the suspended Maguindanao election supervisor could possibly be slapped with additional charges.

"Some people are saying we're just staging a drama. Why does these people just wait for us to finish our duty?" Ferrer told reporters in a mix of English and Filipino.

Ferrer heads Task Force Maguindanao, which is investigating allegations of widespread electoral fraud in the southern province.

The controversial Bedol has reportedly returned to Cotabato City after he was released by Comelec just days after he was arrested on contempt charges for failing to answer the provincial canvass and hearings at the Comelec. He was also tallied dozen for his "unlawful assumption" of custody of ballots, jail certificates of outcome which he later claimed he lost.

Watchlist

Bedol has been placed under the immigration watchlist. Ferrer said this would not prevent him from leaving the country but "it would at least inform the Comelec of the latter's whereabouts."

He also clarified that an earlier letter he penned informing Immigration that the controversial election official had been unanimously found guilty of indirect contempt of the Comelec, was "an error." He said Bedol was to be presumed innocent until proven guilty.

On Bedol's fate, Ferrer said that the Comelec en banc would soon ask the Philippine National Police (PNP) to "deputize if there could be a local" for charging Bedol with illegal possession of firearms.

The commission would also order its law department to study the possibility of filing before the Maguindanao prosecutor's office a case of turbulence in the custody of public documents, Ferrer said.

He added that the Comelec law department would be asked to look at other lapses Bedol has possibly violated "for all the things he has done," and to refer this to the Civil Service Commission.

Bedol could possibly be removed from office and be indefinitely banned from holding public office if he is found guilty of violating civil service rules, said Ferrer.

In a related development, the Office of the Ombudsman yesterday called on the public to phone in information they might have on any assets of Bedol and said this could be a basis for a lifestyle check on him.

After the Comelec receives the Bedol issue, Ferrer said the commissioners "could be convened en" to go after Lilian Ibrahim and Regie Barrientos, election supervisors of North and South Cotabato, respectively, who were also alleged to be involved in electoral fraud.

The Comelec is working on "cleaning its bad reputation," he said.

"We have been saddled by the (bad reputation)... It's not genuine us to be bad people unless proven otherwise" he said, adding that there are some people simply out to "destroy" the Comelec.

He added: "The Comelec is the last bastion of democracy in our country because we protect the people's right to suffrage by conducting free elections."

STILL WEARING AN EYEPATCH, election official Lintang Bedol is flanked by police escorts at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on his departure for Cotabato City yesterday. PHOTO

Travesty of election

Bedol yesterday, the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) lambasted Comelec for the "kid glove" treatment it was giving Bedol.

"There is a way to do this using recovery of the electoral process. You have the power to do it," PPCRV national chair Henrietta de Villa said in an appeal to Comelec.

She said she was making the appeal in behalf of 400,000 PPCRV volunteers who risked life and limb to restore the credibility to the elections and help Comelec count clean and honest polls.

"Also (Bedol's) flagrant flaunting of incumbent conclusions as to undue public use disconsolate, disgraceful and flawed," De Villa said.

This, she said, recalls the unabated "Hello, Garci" tape controversy which caught the President talking to an election commissioner about vote leads in Maguindanao.

"How can the Filipino people feel good about our elections when the gross mistakes of the past continuously rear their ugly heads to our electoral exercise which one only assumes that no genuine effort is being made to regain the public trust?"

Meanwhile, Chief Supt. Jose Soliman, head of the Philippine National Police in the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao, said that he no longer had control over Bedol.

"I have not monitored where he went...If he used his ticket to Davao," Cotabato told the Inquirer.

With a report by Alcuin Papa

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

"You can take pride in his legacy."

Ronald Reagan
U.S. President

"A great humanitarian and philanthropist."
Prince Rainier, Prince of Monaco

"One could only be deeply impressed by his vast efforts to promote understanding and peace among peoples"
Anwar Sadat, Egypt President

"A giant of a man."
William Bennett, Harry Donohoe Cobb

"In his own quiet way Mr. Armstrong has done more to promote positive relations between countries than has the [U.S.] State Department"
Ed Cox
President, Republican Chairman of Commerce

WHAT HAPPENED in the global humanitarian empire of Herbert W. Armstrong, one of the foremost religious leaders of the 20th century? During the 1980s, Armstrong's work was bigger than those of Jerry Falwell and Billy Graham combined. What happened after his death in 1986, however, is the most astonishing story in modern religion. Here is the shocking, gripping untold story of how the foundations, colleges and church he founded were deceitfully hijacked and spiritually destroyed. It is the story of the cabal of leaders who trashed his work, silenced his voice, sold the church's assets and bounced the money. It is also the inspiring story of the life-and-death, six-year court battle that ensued when a faith-filled few held fast to his mission and sought to defend his legacy—by saving the ruins.

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We will survive Erap acquittal, says Palace

By Gil Cabacungan

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY SAID IT WILL survive an acquittal of jailed President Joseph Estrada from the plunder charges that were the basis for the Edsa People Power II event that propelled President Macapagal-Arroyo to power six months ago.

"The administration will survive any condition definitely, no question about that," said Executive Secretary Edwardo Ermita when asked on what could be an adverse reaction from Estrada's supporters if the Sandiganbayan finds their leader innocent of the charges that led to his ouster in 2001 and his step to palace over the last six years.

"My (the Arroyo administration) is not only going by our laws. That is important. It's one thing to secure, it's another to prove the accusation and/or have the courts to declare," said Ermita.

But Ermita warned that a guilty verdict on Estrada could very well incite an equally strong reaction from his followers which was why the Palace had been preparing contingency plans for any scenario.

"We will leave to see how the reaction of the public, whether the verdict a guilty or not guilty and act accordingly. Like in the past, story of the entire Filipino people. She should make sure that the situation on the ground is peaceful," said Ermita.

Ermita, however, would not say what scenario Malacañang felt would have more serious reaction.

He was adamant that Malacañang has kept its hands off the case throughout the trial period and that it would not dare touch the Sandiganbayan's final decision.

"The Sandiganbayan is a separate body. The accused is a former president and therefore he should be given due respect. Let's just follow what the law says as far as such a case is concerned," said Ermita.

When asked if he considered the event a possible threat to national security, Ermita said: "It's a very important personality. I would like to think that whatever was the pronouncement or is the proponent of that can gauge it (correctly) in their own group."

Ermita was reacting to a one-page ad in newspapers yesterday that appealed for solidarity in the face of the Sandiganbayan's impending decision on the Estrada case.

"Some sectors saying this could be a national threat but if you are following the case of the former president you can see that the conspiracy of the group of the man has been and they will see when the verdict comes out if it follows the rule of law or not. It's very transparent and maybe that would mitigate against it being a serious threat against national security," said Ermita.

Imelda bash raises PCGG eyebrow

By Alcuin Papa

THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON GOOD Government (PCGG) is set to demand an explanation from the Department of Tourism (DOT) on how former First Lady Imelda Marcos managed to use the Manor Cantabrang mansion for her recent birthday party.

In a press conference yesterday, PCGG Chair Camilo Sabio said the mansion is under sequestration but is under the control of the DOT and should not have been used.

"We will inquire why the DOT allowed the use of the mansion," Sabio said.

Sabio said that in 1986 after the ouster of former President Ferdinand Marcos, some of properties of the Marcos family were turned over to the administration of the DOT under the orders of the Office of the President.

This includes the Cantabrang Mansion, the Coconut Palace in Tagaytay, the Rainbow Hotel, the Malacañang of the North and the Cultural Center Hotel.

Sabio said the PCGG would have taken over administration of the properties but it desires have sufficient manpower to do so.

"We will just have to negotiate the termination of the cases (related to the properties)," Sabio said.

Last June 4, Mrs. Marcos celebrated her 72nd birthday at the former presidential guesthouse in Cantabrang, Laguna.

In an interview with a television source, Mrs. Marcos said she wanted to celebrate her birthday at the mansion because her family had a lot of fond memories of the place.

She also insisted that the condition of the guesthouse had deteriorated since 1986.

She clarified that her family had to ask permission to hold her party at the mansion but declined to name the government official who granted her request.

Comelec to proclaim 12th senator in August

Zubiri now up by 1,086 over Pimentel in media tally

By Nikko Dizon

PIMENTEL

ZUBIRI

THE 12TH AND LAST WINNING SENATORIAL candidate may be proclaimed in August as special elections still will be held in Pasay, Lanao del Sur and Sulu while the municipal canvassing of the vote tallies from Boac, Cebu has yet to be scheduled, an election commissioner said yesterday.

Based on the canvasses in Election Watch unofficial tally, the lead of Genuine Opposition candidate Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III over Team Unity's Juan Miguel Zubiri has dwindled to only 936 votes.

A different tally compiled by media, however, saw Zubiri now leading Pimentel by 1,086 votes.

Commissioner Nicodemo Ferrer said that tallies from the July 23 special elections in Pasay and Sulu Regs would be crucial in determining the last winning senator.

Pasay has a voting population of 13,000 while Regs has 20,000.

Comelec's best

Ferrer said the Comelec had to schedule special elections in Malita after the election officer, Alonjo Tago, "absconded with the box of registered voters."

Disagreement organization and evaluators discovered more than 2,000 illegally registered voters in Pasay. Tago has likewise reported missing.

Ferrer said the Comelec "will do its best" to proclaim the last winning senator by the end of this month.

But considering that a special election has been scheduled at 6th July, Ferrer said: "It is possible that the 12th senator will be proclaimed in August."

Yesterday, the Comelec released its latest unofficial returns result as of 6 p.m. of June 29.

The senatorial canvass report No. 20 showed Pimentel with 10,971,362 votes and Zubiri with 10,970,681 votes, giving the GO candidate a mere 681 vote edge over the TU bet.

This was in contrast to the votes tallied by the media on June 30, where Pimentel led 10,971,362 votes and Zubiri garnered 10,969,269 votes, or a difference of 4,285 votes in favor of the GO candidate.

Both The Comelec and media tallies included votes tabulated by the Comelec, using the National Board of Canvassers, from Basilan, Lanao del Sur, Sulu in Lapanto, and Maguindanao.

Following The July 2 technical canvassing of votes from the towns of Buenavista and Tubigon in Bohol's 4th Congressional District, and the canvassed votes in Tampakan, Lanao del Sur where 448 votes were subtracted from Zubiri, the media tally showed Pimentel with 10,974,911 votes against Zubiri's 10,973,205 votes.

Pimentel's lead was slashed to 2,706 votes.

But combining Comelec's June 28 official tally and the Sheriff Edmundson and Tampacan figures joined down by the media last Monday would show that Zubiri has already overtaken Pimentel by 1,086 votes.

Zubiri will have 16,975,787 votes compared to Pimentel's 16,974,711 votes.

Asked about the discrepancy between the media tally and the Comelec figures, Ferrer said that was possible because of "clerical errors" of the Comelec tabulators that were corrected later.

"We are not favoring anyone. Sometimes there are clerical errors but that's all in the official records," Ferrer said.

The national canvassing will resume today at 2 p.m. for the official tabulation of votes from Boac, Negros Oriental and several provinces in Pagadungan, Maguindanao.

Ferrer said special elections have also been scheduled on July 16 in seven precincts in three towns in Lanao del Sur but the voting would only affect the local elections there.

Koko files new petition to stop proclamation

By Leila B. Salaverria and Cynthia D. Rubino

SENATOR-DESIGNATE AQUILINO "Koko" Pimentel III yesterday asked the Supreme Court to stop the Commission on Elections from proclaiming the 12th winning senator.

In his petition for a temporary restraining order, Pimentel also asked the high court to nullify the proclamation of the Comelec, acting as the National Board of Canvassers (NBC), which included the results from Maguindanao due to the national canvass of votes for senator, for being unconstitutional and illegal.

He also wants to nullify the proclamation of the municipal certificates of canvass (MCOC) that failed to the proclamation of a provincial COC for Maguindanao.

"The anticipated hasty proclamation of canvass presented, inge-nect the imminent proclamation of the petitioner as senator, will cause irreparable injury to the petitioner and to the millions of people who voted for him especially the proclamation of candidates based on the election returns that the respondent NBC could possibly undertake," he said.

Pimentel said the NBC should also be directed to disseminate the preliminary count of the MCOC, while he should be allowed to present proof to back up his claim that the election results in Maguindanao were manufactured, and to question election officials in the said province.

He noted that while he still leads over elusive rival, Juan Miguel Zubiri, he expects this to be gone when the votes from the remaining COCs are canvassed.

"The canvass proceedings before the public corporation have been a sham," he said.

The Supreme Court had earlier denied Pimentel's earlier petition to stop the canvassing of Maguindanao votes.

Zubiri, however, yesterday asked Pimentel to just bring their election protest to the Senate Electoral Tribunal (SET), and let the Comelec proclaim the winner for the 12th and last Senate seat.

In an interview, Zubiri said Pimentel's petition asking the Supreme Court to stop the proclamation of the 12th senator by declaring illegal the Comelec canvass of votes from Maguindanao was a clumsy ploy.

"I believe this is a last ditch attempt on his part to slow down the process of proclamation for the 12th winning candidate," he said.

Zubiri stated that as of yesterday, Pimentel's lead was slashed to 936.

But Zubiri said he would win in the end and lead by a little over 17,000 votes over Pimentel after all the votes on the affected areas shall have been canvassed.

He said he would lead by 8,482 votes in Boac, Cebu and 8,188 votes in Bais, Negros Oriental.

In Bais's town in Shariff Kabunsuan, Zubiri said he led Pimentel by 2,200 votes.

Pangilinan appeals to Senate colleagues to stop bickering

By Cynthia D. Rubino

RESPONDING TO CHARGES THAT he had abandoned the opposition, Sen. Ramon "Bobi" Pangilinan yesterday appealed to his colleagues in the Senate to stop bickering over the issue of Senate presidency.

Pangilinan explained that his absence from the Senate following the the new Senate presidency called by the opposition block was because he was never formally notified.

"It's how we do business in Asia now," he said.

An independent candidate in the last election, Pangilinan cited his preference for Sen. Manuel Villar as Senate president did not mean that he had abandoned his opposition or independent stance.

He defended Villar's coalition with administration allied senators, saying "If you ask me, based on my experience in the majority coalition in 2001 and 2004, it's better for them to unite. They should set aside their presidential ambitions in 2010 and decide on the Senate presidency based on 2007," he told reporters in Filipino.

He added that he would like to see a working Senate, one that brings together senators under a common stand and legislative agenda, regardless of political affiliations.

Pangilinan also said he believed the distribution of the various Senate committees should be decided on qualifications of individual senators, and not on party affiliation.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel, Villar's stand for the top Senate post, said he also did not foresee a parting of ways with other opposition senators over the issue of who should be Senate president.

He said that based on the information he received, Senators Pangilinan and Jinggoy Estrada could be elected as majority floor leaders.

Pangilinan, who both ran under the opposition in the last election, would support Villar as Senate president although they would continue to push for the legislative agenda of the opposition.

Pimentel added that he would also mind being friends currently leader against Arroyo as the rest of the opposition senators are considered.

"As far as I'm concerned, I don't take these things at the personal level. I respect their right to choose for themselves. But that said, I think they will have a lot of explaining to do to our people because the main message of the last election was overwhelmingly—the people voted for the opposition candidates to the Senate," he quipped.

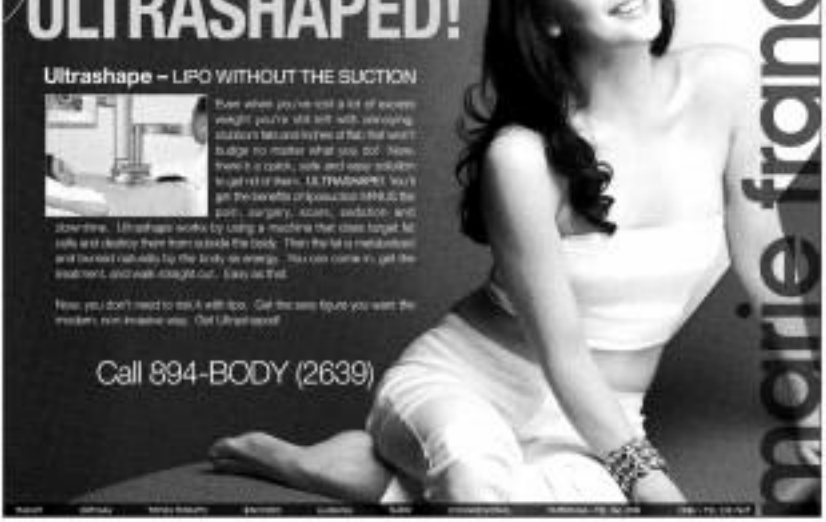
Pimentel refused to comment on the political events between Villar and Sen. Miriam Santiago, both opposition members, which has reportedly led to the break up of the opposition.

GMA seeks Sulgan word on new SC justice

AFTER HIS EARLIER denial, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita confirmed out to be ineligible because of his citizenship, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo now wants the prospective high court occupant to be recommended by the government's top lawyer.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said that the President would wait for the letter (sound) recommendation by Acting Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez who is the high court ruled that last person nominee, Ambassador Antonio Antonio Eduardo Nachura Ong, was not a natural born Filipino citizen. Proof of his birth certificate which listed him as Chinese.

In a press conference, Ermita said the Solicitor General has no doubt whether the President should nominate another candidate from the six remaining names on the list submitted by the Judicial and Bar Council or should she wait for the JBC to resubmit its nominees to ensure that all of their nominees are eligible by the high court. MEC Gil Cabunagan Jr.



No rest for Namfrel

By Cristine L. Rivera

THE ELECTIONS MAY BE OVER BUT THE National Citizens Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) said it is not taking a rest. It has another "important" task to do.

Namfrel secretary general Eric Alvarez said the group's next job is to monitor the coming appointments to the Commission on Elections to prevent the selection of political figures "inclined" to cheating.

In a press briefing yesterday, Alvarez urged the media and the public to keep a close watch on the names being floated to replace Commissioners Florentino Tuason and Resurreccion Borra, as well as Chairman Benjamin Abalos. All three are set to retire on February 2008.

Another empty seat, vacated by ex-Commissioner Rufino Javier in November 2006, has also to be filled, he said.

"The biggest issue that we will focus on will be in (choosing) where (the) commissioners of Comelec will come," he said.

The election watchdog will be out this time not in on the appointment of Comelec commissioners who have independence, probity and are "not beholden to any powers that be."

He added that they don't want to see a replay of the scenario that rocked the Commission on this past three years, particularly the "thelma issue" of impeachment, which supported that the President and a Comelec commissioner conspired to hijack vote-rigging in Maguindanao during the 2004 presidential elections, with the help of some top military officials.

The Namfrel top honcho said they failed impeachment attempts against President Macapagal-Arroyo and stalled the image of the Comelec.

"In the recent May 14 polls, the poll body suffered with low public confidence as shown in surveys, and allegations of election cheating involving Comelec representatives in congress hotspots like Maguindanao and Sharriff Kabunsuan.

Alvez said that is the first time civil society groups will openly monitor the appointments of Comelec officers, something they failed to do in 2001, when six commissioner positions was appointed.

FINAL CASUALTY TALLY

PNP lists 121 people dead, 176 hurt in polls

By Abraham Pope

THERE WERE A TOTAL OF 297 casualties in the May 14 local elections this year, statistics from the Philippine National Police (PNP) said.

According to the PNP figures on election-related violence incidents (ERVI), a total of 121 people died during this year's election period from January 14 to June 13.

Out of this number, 37 were in their politicians or candidates. A total of 93 supporters of candidates and civilians caught in the crossfire were killed.

Two persons missing

A total of 176 people were injured and two persons were missing in 229 violent incidents, the figures from the PNP said.

Also, 26 policemen and one soldier were killed in recently operations during the elections. A total of 54 policemen and two soldiers were injured.

The fatalities was fully listed around 1.48 dead.

There were 139 fatalities in 2004 and 132 in 2001.

Elections in the country, especially local elections, have traditionally been violent affairs.

Private armed groups

Rudy countered electoral violence are backed by a proliferation of firearms and the existence of private armed groups headed mostly by local politicians. The PNP counted 26 private armed groups operating around the country.

A total of nine areas were placed on the PNP's list of hotspots. Fifteen areas were placed under Comelec control. These are Sur Under City, Mun. Nueva Ecija, Valenzuela in Bulacan and Bantayan Island in Cebu.

The PNP managed to confiscate around 2,000 guns and arrested thirty owners for violations of the Comelec-enforced gun ban. Some 1,132 persons were killed during the election period.

Offshoot

The PNP was dispatched to secure the 2004 elections, a task traditionally given to the military due to fears in the last few years, officials from the Comelec and the defense department signed a memorandum limiting the involvement of the military to the elections. The agreement was an offshoot of the "Hello Garci" controversy.

Nonetheless, some military units were used by secure certain areas, mostly in the south, with the permission of the Comelec.

The PNP had asked a P600 million budget for the conduct of the 2004 elections but got only around half of the amount.

Supreme Court of the Philippines
Judicial and Bar Council
Manila

ANNOUNCEMENT

The JBC announces that the following are applicants for different judgeship positions:

REGIONAL TRIAL COURT (RTC)- (NCJR) CALOOCAN CITY: (Br. 120) AGBAGA, Gerse G.; AGOR, Dominador A.; ALZATE, Leonardo T.; ANDOY, Teresita A.; BLANCAFLOR, Jamie C.; CALDONA, Edgardo M.; CALIS, Eipidio R.; CAPELLAN, Mario G.; CASTILLO, Silverio G.; CEBILLO, Evarito G.; DIAZ, Augustus C.; ILAO, Toribio E. Jr.; LIM, Sarah Alma M.; LIWANAG, Rico Sebastian D.; MACATANGAY, Esther P.; MANGROBANG, Ma. Celestina C.; MANTALA, Apollo S.; MAÑALAC, Mary Ann C.; MONTOJO, Peter M.; PACIS, Ernesto M.; PACULDO, Lorenzo P.; QUIMAQUIMAN, Rowena D.I.; QUINTIN, Edison F.; RALAR, Aurelio R. Jr.; SISCAR, Josefina E.; SISON, Dominic C.; SOLIVEN, Corazon D.; TIENZO, Juanita C.; TIMOLA, Wilfredo V.; TRIA, Roslyn R.; VASQUEZ, Rasquelen A; **MALABON CITY: (Br. 72)** AGCAOILI, Alfredo P.; ALIPOSA, Raquisah A.; ASUNCION, Miguel E.; BAUTISTA, Wenandoah Jr.; BORJA, Diego G. Jr.; CALONGE, Diosdado V.; CAPELLAN, Mario G.; CASTILLO, Virgilio R.; CEQUEÑA, Maria Cheryl L.; CRUZ, Rosalio C.; DE LUNA, Ambrosio E.; DOKEÑA, Zaida D.; DUMLAO, Florencio G. Jr.; ESTORNINOS, Pridee M.; FORTUNO, Jose C.; GABAD, Rito M.; JABIAK, Bayani M.; LIM, Macario B.; MACABAYA, Bonifacio M.; MAGSINO, Carlos Raymundo DL. Jr.; MALABAGUIO, Arthur O.; MATIRA, Rowena DC.; MIRANDA, Ismael C.; OSIAS, Joselito G.; QUINTANO, Ismael M.; QUINTIN, Edison F.; RAMOS, Larry G.; RODOLFO, Juan T.; SAGADAL, Othel L.; SANTOS, Efren O.; SOREIAN, Maria Cayna M.; RITA CRUZ, Manuel B. Jr.; SUAREZ, Danilo V.; TOLEDO, Ismael V.; TOLLEDO, Eduardino P. Jr.; VELASQUEZ, Cimyana M. **MANILA: (Brs. 10, 31, 42 & 48)** ACOSTA, Louis P.; AGRADA, Gerse G.; AGOR, Dominador A.; ALTAREJOS, Mateo B.; ALZATE, Leonardo T.; AMPUAN, Alfredo D.; ARGUELLAZA, Dominador L.; BANDONG, Dinah Evangeline G.; BAUTISTA, Jose L. Jr.; BERMEJO, Juan O. Jr.; BLANCAFLOR, Jaime C.; BRAVO, Congrio B.; BUENAVIDEZ, Beatriz R.; CALIS, Elpidio R.; CAPELLAN, Mario G.; CASTILLO, Silverio G.; CEBILLO, Evarito G.; CESAR, Amorifna C.; CONTRERAS, Jaime E.; CORPUZ, Ferdinand M.; CRUZ, Rosalio C.; SANTOS, Ida Barrantes J.; SINGH, Maria Filomena D.; SISCAR, Josefina E.; SISON, Dominic C.; SOLIVEN, Corazon D.; TENORIO, Buenaventura Albert J.; TIENZO, Juanita C.; TIMOLA, Wilfredo V.; TOPACIO, Dinah A.; TORRES, Lizabeth G.; TRIA, Roslyn R.; VASQUEZ, Rasquelen A.; VILLAVERT, Caroline R.; YANGA, Armando S. **MUNTINLUPA CITY: (Br. 276)** AGCAOILI, Alfredo P.; ALIPOSA, Raquisah A.; ARGUELLAZA, Antonio Jr. Jr.; ARREZA, Rogelio V. Jr.; ASUNCION, Miguel E.; ATIENZA, Eva P.; BAUTISTA, Edgardo C.; BISQUERA, Jose Ramon G.; BORJA, Diego G. Jr.; CALIS, Elpidio R.; CALONGE, Diosdado V.; CATALO, Lorendo C.; CESAR, Amorifna C.; CRUZ, Manil F.; CONTRERAS, Jaime E.; DOMPIG, Ferdinand M.; CRUZ, Roslyn R.; DE GUZMAN, Hermogenes R.; DE JESUS, Jose Tereso U. Jr.; DE LUNA, Ambrosio E.; DIZON, Modesto S.; DOCENA, Zaida B.; DULDULAO, Hosain T.; DUQUE, Perla F.; HERRERO-DIMA, Elizabeth D.; HERRERO, Nyram Susan S.; ROMUALDA, Linda M.; LIM, Macario B.; LUCENARIO, Nora A.; MACABAYA, Bonifacio M.; MAGSINO, Carlos Raymundo D. Jr.; MALABAGUIO, Arthur O.; MEDINA, Jerrosenta F.; MENDOZA, Ernesto C.; MENDOZA, Leo Luis P.; MIANAL, Ismael G.; PAMINTUAN, Ricardo T.; PERENA, Victoria M.; RODOLFO, Juan T.; SANTOS, Efren O.; SOLIVEN, Corazon D.; SORIANO, Maria Claire R.; SUAREZ, Danilo V.; SUMOD, Benjamin T.; SULIT, Cristina J.; TORRE, Ramon H.; TOLEDO, Ismael V.; TOLLEDO, Eduardino T. Jr.; VILLANUEVA, Romulo S.; ZUÑIGA, Ma. Consuelo T. **PASAY CITY: (Brs. 110 & 117)** AGUILAR, Marciano M.; ALZATE, Leonardo T.; BANDONG, Dinah Evangeline G.; BAUTISTA, Jose L. Jr.; CALIS, Elpidio R.; CEBILLO, Evarito G.; DELA CRUZ, Eugenio G.; DIAZ, Augustus C.; ILAO, Toribio E. Jr.; JACINTO, Jose S. Jr.; JURADO, Cicero D. Jr.; LIGAYA, Marinnilda O.; LIM, Sarah Alma M.; MANGROBANG, Ma. Celestina C.; MENINGAS, Jessica P.; MANTALA, Apollo S.; MONTOJO, Peter M.; OLIVETE, Antonio M.; PALABICO, Gina S.; PASIA, Pio M.; PELINO, Divina Grasia L.; QUIMAQUIMAN, Rowena D.I.; QUIZON, Rita E.; RABANG, Francisco-P. III; REYES, Antonio D.; SISCAR, Josefina E.; SULIT, Cristina J.; TIENZO, Juanita C.; TRIA, Roslyn R.; VASQUEZ, Rasquelen A. **PASIG CITY: (Br. 156 & 268)** ACOSTA, Louis P.; AGBAGA, Gerse G.; AGUILAR, Narciso M.; ALTAREJOS, Mateo B.; ALZATE, Leonardo T.; ANDOY, Teresita A.; ARENAS, Santiago M.; CALIS, Elpidio R.; CAPELLAN, Mario G.; CASTILLO, Silverio G.; CEJAR, Amorifna C.; DELA CRUZ, Eugenio G.; DIAZ, Augustus C.; EONALAGA, Ma. Corazon G.; ILAO, Toribio E. Jr.; JURADO, Cicero D. Jr.; LIGAYA, Germiana D.; LIGAYA, Marinnilda O.; LIM, Sarah Alma M.; MACARAIG, Virgilio V.; MACATANGAY, Esther P.; MANTALA, Apollo S.; MAÑALAC, Mary Ann C.; MISLANG, Rolando G.; MONTOJO, Peter M.; OLIVETE, Antonio M.; PACULDO, Lorenzo P.; PELINO, Divina Grasia L.; QUIMAQUIMAN, Rowena D.I.; RUIZ, Joseph Cedrick O.; SAN GABRIEL, Ma. Teresa C.; SINGH, Maria Filomena D.; SISCAR, Josefina E.; SOLIVEN, Corazon D.; TIMOLA, Wilfredo V.; TRIA, Roslyn R.; VASQUEZ, Rasquelen A.; VOLANTE, William B.; YANGA, Armando A.

The public may submit sworn complaint, written report, or supporting affidavit against any of the aforesaid applicants not later than July 13, 2007 to the JBC Secretariat, 2nd Flr. Centennial Bldg., Supreme Court, Padre Faura St., Manila (Tel. No. 552-9512; Fax No. 552-9598; e-mail address: jbc_supremecourt@yahoo.com.ph).

All applicants for judicial positions must submit to the JBC ASAP via fax, mail or e-mail their updated JBC Form 1 (revised Oct. 2006) and proof of Filipino Citizenship.

July 03, 2007

MA. LOIDA D. VILLARAMA
Clerk of Court & JBC
Ex Officio Secretary

RESOLUTION NO. 8146

Kapatiran looking forward to 2010

"THE PARTICIPATION of Ang Kapatiran in local political party for the first time in the 2007 election encouraged the beginning of change as well as movement for the country.

That was Randy Padilan's reply to a question by a group of lay persons in Cubao, Quezon City, on the party's participation in the last elections.

Padilan, the Ang Kapatiran secretary general, said Ang Kapatiran's goal for the party is now looking forward to the 2010 election.

He cited a typical scenario executed by the party after the elections: "Ang Kapatiran is a draft village on one prize political landscape ... is but devoid the programmes of the idealistic nature of society ... Ang Kapatiran stood bare the fists of its ideals burning to engulf the cancerous flame of meaningful socio-political and local involvement in the evangelization of governance and resurrection of righteousness."

"The last election is gone but our hope is very much alive, and our time determination to overcome the good fight remains strong as ever. Losing in the elections was not the end of the world for Ang Kapatiran that continues to encounter ... skeptical friend politics," Padilan revealed.

"In fact," he added, "we are very pleased with the high level of consciousness and awareness of the principles and platform of the party."

"Because these people's thoughts are now our thoughts, their votes are our votes, we are subjected to every kind of hostility and sinful remarks but we never declined, we failed to squares but we never dispaired, we were knocked down, but we will managed to get up.

Padilan said Ang Kapatiran will be ready as a mobilizing force to do a grassroots and strategy in preparation for the 2010 elections.

"I think encountering problem around values is the most important test of long-lives politics party he said.

GMA OKs dismissal of 54 Oakwood mutineers

Court-martial verdict upheld

By Christine O. Avendaño

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO has approved the dismissal of 54 junior military officers implicated in the failed July 2003 Oakwood mutiny, the military said yesterday.

"[The President's approval] manifests that justice had been served and that the military justice system is fair and transparent to all," military spokesperson Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro said.

"Military administration has resolved in a democratic society, it will not be tolerated and that disciplinary action will in all cases be done swift and decisive," he said.

The 54 officers will be dishonorably discharged from the military, with no benefits, when they complete their imprisonment in Jamindan, Bacarro said.

A military court martial had earlier recommended the dishonorable discharge from the military service of the 54 renegade officers.

Bacarro said President Macapagal-Arroyo approved last June 13 the verdict handed down by the general court-martial presided by Brig. Gen. Nathaniel Legaspi.

The 54 officers made a plea bargain agreement with a court-martial last April, resulting in a reduction of their jail terms from seven to three years. They have been in custody since the mutiny and the sentence will count as time served.

The junior officers are scheduled to be released as soon as June 27, 2008.

"We can see that there is an administration of guilt on the part of the non-commissioned officers group," Bacarro said, in explaining the implication of the terms taken by the 54 junior officers to enter into a plea bargain agreement.

"They pleaded guilty that they are part of the Magdalo group and that will have long implications to the core group," he said.

The 54 junior officers were among 300 Magdalo soldiers who took over the posh Oakwood Premier serviced apartments and a nearby shopping center in Makati's financial district in July 2003, rigging the area with bombs and demanding Ms Arroyo's resignation.

They denounced government and military corruption, but were arrested after staging a failed coup. They surrendered after the daylong uprising.

During plea bargaining in the Makati court case, the 54 officers agreed to withdraw their previous pleas of not guilty to several charges, including murder and sedition. They also pleaded guilty to the lesser charge of military misconduct.

The deal was approved by the court-martial, which handed them the reduced jail term of four years and dishonorable discharge without benefits.

Among the leaders of the failed mutiny were former Navy lieutenant and now Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, Capt. Gerardo Gambala and Capt. Milo Maestrecampo. But these leaders were not among the 54 junior military officers who were ordered dishonorably discharged from the service.

Trillanes, who has since left the military service to run for a Senate seat in May, did not join the plea bargaining and remains in a military jail, fighting coup charges in civilian and military courts. He has asked for permission to attend Senate sessions, but there has been no court ruling yet.

Trillanes and 29 other junior military officers who are said to be the main group of the Magdalo were tried separately from the 53 junior military officers, which included the 54.

Trillanes and the general court-martial will continue hearing the case of the seven who did not join their 54 colleagues in reversing their original plea of not guilty.

He said the seven would still face the original charges of the four Articles of War. These include violations of Articles of War 63 (disrespect toward the President, Vice President, Congress or the Secretary of National Defense); 64 (disrespect toward a superior officer); 67 (mutiny or sedition); 96 (conduct subversive to military discipline); 97 (conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline).

Alexfel co-accused in the 2003 mutiny, former Army colonel Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, also won a Senate seat. The Justice Department dropped a coup charge against him after he successfully made peace overtures to Arroyo.

RED, WHITE AND BLUE
A protester rallies here behind the colors of the US and Philippine flags near the US Embassy to denounce the "Bill of Pernicious Intent." His group is protesting the impending implementation of the anti-terror law.

Gov't neutral on Ang's bid for US trip

THE GOVERNMENT WAS TAKEN A several aback on Charito "Heong" Ang's 20-day vacation in Las Vegas, Nevada, he scheduled now weekend.

Ang, who is under probation, plans to leave the country on July 11 and stay in the United States until his family court has given it and also allow him to pay of debts he incurred since his arrest in 2002.

The convicted former "consultant" of jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada was allowed by the Sandiganbayan last May to go abroad for probation for the next two years after pleading guilty to a lesser offense to the plunder charges filed against Estrada.

The prosecution yesterday said that should the assigned court grant Ang's travel request, he would temporarily be removed from the supervision of the probation officer and control of the court; thus, may open the "flood gates" for the violation of probation conditions.

While under probation, Ang was required to file fortnightly court to report to a probation officer every month and place either before, every, nerve or analogously every two months at the Quezon City Circle or Lubbon Court/Waterfront.

Ang was also required to find a fixed source of income and should not associate himself with persons of questionable character.

But the prosecution did not say that it was opposing Ang's plan to travel to the US. It merely stated in its comment filed with the court yesterday that if his motion will be granted, it will ask the court to declare the period of his travel from his two-year probation.

Jocelyn R. Uy

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Media may be bugged; bishop fears terror law

Front page A1

secretary said. "The fact that your source is a terrorist does not make you a terrorist per se."

"But if the journalists is near a suspect, then he can be subject to wiretapping," Gonzales said.

The broad expression was considered a terror suspect if he was "communicated."

"For example, there is suspicion against you. You are seen part of the group that is planning to terrorize, to do harm to the state," he said.

Gonzales also said that being a leftist did not automatically make someone a terrorist.

"Nobody is immune to the possibility of wiretapping but it must be predicated on the fact that he is a suspect, "Gonzales said.

A dangerous law

Cabinet member Ruperto Aquino Filipino branded the law as dangerous.

"The undercover law will lead to private criminals, especially when used to deal with those who do not agree with government's thinking," Filipino said in an interview over Catholic-owned radio Veritas.

The bishop noted the law's stringent provisions against those suspected of terrorism, which covers offenses ranging from coup d'etat and piracy to dissemination of explosives and highway robbery.

Activists fear that the law could be easily abused because of its broad definition of terrorism, including creating fear among the people.

The FBI was embedded to take effect in the middle of the month, but Deputy National Security Adviser Arthur Pedro Cabangbang on Tuesday said its implementation was likely to be postponed.

According to Cabinet, the law's implementing rules and regulations have yet to be formulated and public discussions on its ramifications have to be conducted.

Besides, the HSA, or Republic Act No. 9372, "An Act to Secure the State and Protect our People from Terrorism," has not been published in a newspaper of general circulation.

The government is scheduled to hold a nationwide information campaign about the features of the law, starting with Cagayan de Oro on July 8-13.

Martial law powers?

Filipino said that based on what he heard from others, the government would be given martial law powers.

The bishop wished Congress and the Supreme Court would take more pains to review the law.

"Otherwise, it will be the occasion for so many abuses, especially with the way the government is being run nowadays," he said.

Travel restriction

Filipino expressed concern over the interpretation and enforcement of the 1949 Section 19 and 20 of the deal with detention of and investigations on terror suspects.

"These provisions are dangerous to the citizens, and could be used by people in the government who have no conscience to persecute those that they consider to be enemies," he said.

Under Section 25, the person charged with the crime of terrorism or conspiracy to terrorism is entitled to bail when the evidence of guilt is not strong.

However, the court, upon the petition of the prosecution, may limit the right of the accused to travel. The suspect may be prohibited from leaving the city or municipality where he is living without permission of the court.

The suspect may also be placed under house arrest by the court, during which he may not use telephones, cell phones, e-mail, computers, the Internet or other means of communication until otherwise ordered by the court.

PEACE JOURNALISM: Annalee Ytreglidal and Jake Lynch of the University of Sydney and the British Broadcasting Corp. lecture on peace journalism on 11 Filipino journalists in Tagaytay City. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Section 19 says that in the event of an actual or imminent terrorist attack, the suspect may not be detained for more than three days without the written approval of a municipal, city, provincial or regional official of a Human Rights Commission or judge of the municipal, regional trial court, shari'ah circuit court or a justice of the Court of Appeals nearest the place of the arrest.

If the arrest is made during Saturdays, Sundays, holidays or after office hours, the arresting police or law enforcement personnel shall bring the suspect to the home of any of the officials mentioned that is nearest the place where the accused was arrested.

The approval in writing by any of the officials must be obtained by the police or law enforcement personnel within five days after the date of the detention of the suspect.

If within three days after the detention and the suspect's connection with the terror attack or threat to one established, he or she shall be released immediately.

List of terrorists

The country has no list of terrorists except those recognized by the United States and the European community, according to Gonzales.

Asked if the Philippines would adopt those lists, he said "yes."

Based on evidence

He said that being considered a terror suspect should be based on evidence.

Authorities should study well reports stating that a person is a suspect before issue permission is sought for the wiretapping, the justice secretary said.

"When you say he's a suspect, it's not just because somebody whispered to you that this fellow is a terrorist. That will have to be done through proper investigation," he said.

Appeals court's permission

After the investigation is completed, authorities, including the Department of Justice, should file a petition in the Court of Appeals seeking permission for the wiretapping.

Gonzales said he was required to write a letter to the Supreme Court asking it to designate the Court of Appeals division that would be authorized to rule on requests for wiretapping.

Under the HSA, the petition can be filed without the need to inform the concerned party so as not to defeat the purpose of the investigation.

Asked why government officials were not exempted from being tagged, Gonzales said even people in public service could be traitors. But he said the President should not be wiretapped because the could not be used.

Excessive

Asked if members of the commission led National Democratic Front could be wiretapped, the justice secretary said: "I suppose so, as long as there's a clear definition that we consider them as terror."

The Human Security Act has safeguards against its abuse, like paying P500,000 in damages for every day that someone is detained or arrested without a warrant. Gonzales considered the hefty fine "practically violative of the Constitution."

"The Constitution speaks of reasonable fines. But here, one of detention is already worth P500,000. So that is one of the safeguards in place," he said.

'Virtual' nameless, faceless con artists log on to your cash

Front page A1

The scheme is being marketed via the websites http://www.ifinancebiz.biz/ and http://friendfinanciers.com, or through a person, who is either already "enrolled" or has put in money in the program.

Prospective investors are asked to invest $1,000 in francs via fax and $15,000 in denominations.

The investor can earn a 1.5 percent commission if he or she recruits two more people.

From there, investors are persuaded to sit back and enjoy revenue, which are "guaranteed" to go up as high as 27% percent in 10 days.

Or is it racism.

Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas told the hearings that the central bank, in coordination with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Philippine Stock Exchange and National Bureau of Investigation, would release an advisory shortly to warn the public about this online scam and other "highyield investment programs" peddling on the Internet.

Ponzi scheme

There are Internet Ponzi schemes, according to Tetangco.

Ponzi schemes promise abnormally high returns that are paid, not through income generated from any real business, but from money coming in from new investors.

Like the pyramiding schemes that swept the country a few years ago, this kind of business requires an ever-increasing stream of cash to survive. It's doomed to fail because Ponzi operators usually disappear once they think the governments is after them or because they find it hard to pay the promised astronomical returns when the incoming streams of investments slow down.

"We are aware of these schemes and we are already looking into this," Tetangco said.

Multilevel

In the late 1990s, Bone Baladjay's Multinational Telecom Investment Corporation (Multitel) reportedly able to dupe investors of between P20 billion and P25 billion.

Erdie and Evelyn Abaira, owners of the Mano Management Group Production, allegedly pooled over 30,000 investors of at least P4.3 billion.

The Filscene Group Investment Co. Inc., owned by Jesus Tiongco, allegedly defrauded between 8,000 and 10,000 investors of at least P2 billion.

Finance blog

Moneydreamers, a personal finance blog on Inquirer.net (http://www.inquirer.net/moneydreamers/), wrote that the two websites could be more dangerous than previous scams because these are run by "virtual" con artists—nameless and faceless.

They will be difficult to track and hunt, in fact, pulled down the websites of Boise Financials and Investbloxx right after Moneydreamers published an article about them.

Those websites have been known to disappear without any trace, only to come back online under a new business name and a redesigned website.

Boise Financials and Investbloxx did not reveal contact addresses and phone numbers on their websites, have no specific investment products, and promised unrealistic returns.

Overseas Filipinos

Discussions in the online blog on Inquirer.net showed that Filipinos are investing their hard-earned money, some of which are borrowed, and that many of them are overseas Filipino workers.

Some, like "cyberwallstreeter," believe that such high-yield investment programs are merely investment games that should be played by people willing to take risks.

"When somebody introduced me to this kind of investment, I gambled my $5,000 without checking whether it's a scam or what. I know it's risky! But how could you turn it you don't risk your money (bcople, if you can't afford to lose, you just keep your mouth shut, OK! This is a game of gamblers. You might win or lose. If you lose, can good for you. If you win, good for you," he said.

These investment schemes, however, are seriously hamper the growth of financial markets because they restrict some area investors and savers, who could have been new investors in legitimate financial instruments like bonds, stocks, mutual funds and money market instruments.

Malaysia, another country that has been victimized by Ponzi operators (bolasclub.net and bolasclubmail@mail.bit, which are similar to Jones Financials and Investbloxx.com, has banned these websites.

The Malaysian Securities Commission blocked access to the websites starting June 11. With a report from Kyle Pedroza

IN THE KNOW

Ponzi schemes

PONZI SCHEMES ARE A TYPE OF fraud perpetrated by those named for Charles Ponzi, who cheated thousands of New England residents into investing in a postage stamp speculation scheme back in the 1920s.

Ponzi told people he could take advantage of differences between US and foreign currencies and in buy and sell international mail coupons.

Decades later, the Ponzi scheme continues to mark on the "rob Peter to pay Paul" principle, in money from new investors is used to pay off earlier investors until the whole scheme collapses.

(Source: Securities and Exchange Commission)

THE SCAM? was named after its founder and most outstanding practitioner, Charles Ponzi.

7/7/07: When superstition, marketing converge

Front page A1

the proclamation of the world's seven new wonders are scheduled to take place on that day.

"Number 7 has a magic to cast info and the expression of bringing luck," said numerologist Jean-Daniel Pernier. Therefore, several events could only bring an extra dose of good fortune.

"Number 7 is the union of 4, symbol of matter, and of 3, symbol of the spirit," explained Pernier, author of a French guide to numerology.

"It (also), July 7, 2007, is a good date for a wedding. The marriages that are united at least chance of success, though of course the date is no guarantee."

Among the crowds of lovers set to wed that day are the celebrity couple of Eva Longoria (star of "Desperate Housewives") Longoria and French basketball hero Tony Parker of the San Antonio Spurs. Both celebrities are said to be superstitious.

Parker said in Paris this week that it was Longoria who chose the precise choice of 'date in Vicomte surnoir Paris as the setting for their July 7 marriage.

"Personally I don't care (where we get married). I've been telling about it every day for the last seven months. It's a girl's day," he said.

70,000 weddings in US

An early as March, a number of 4,100 wedding planning site 1001 Agents Wants Events that more than 30,000 weddings had already been planned for July 7, a figure that could reach 70,000 couples should choose a Saturday in July for their marriage.

"This is the biggest day I've seen in recent years," said Rashkin Marina, deputy editor of theknot.com.

But David's Bridal, the largest US retailer of wedding gowns, said it would deliver a record 20,000 gowns for brides in July 7 weddings.

The record figure is double the peak figure in a normal year, and David's Bridal estimates some 65,000 to 70,000 weddings have been planned across America on July 7.

Even those superstar types seeking to elope in the US wedding capital of Las Vegas are likely to be disappointed, with the city's wedding chapels all booked up.

The Chapel of Flowers alone has 118 weddings planned for Saturday, around three times the normal figure.

In Paris, one of the city's major department stores, Galeries Lafayette, said it had received 774 wedding lists for 7/7/07, against an average of 200 for each of the 31 Saturdays from July to September.

"Superstition has this particular date was made long to advance," said Jessye Wilkpercher of Gevenosia, a small French wedding planning company. "We have had to turn down at least 40 couples for this date," she added.

Casino gimmicks

Bridal-be couples who organized too late can always try their luck in a casino or buying a lottery ticket instead, however.

In casinos, where TTT wins the jackpot in one-armed bandit slot machines are offering special July 7 deals, such as an overnight luxury stay with spa and dinner for $777, on the night of your life for $7.77.

In France, the state-owned lottery is offering a seven-million euro prize on 7/7/07.

"We expect four to five million people to buy tickets in comparison with three million for an ordinary draw," a spokesperson in the Française des Jeux told AFP.

7 new wonders

But interestingly, Friday 13 this July will do better. The French luxury mill offer a 13-million-euro prize.

July 7 is also the date chosen to announce the results of a contest to choose the seven new wonders of the world.

Swiss-Canadian filmmaker Bernard Weber, a former assistant to Italian filmmaking legend Federico Fellini, has launched a website where internet users can vote and choose the world's "new seven wonders."

Among sites short-listed are the Eiffel Tower, the Acropolis in Athens and the Great Wall of China. The Greek historian Herodotus chose the original seven, which included the hanging gardens of Babylon, the statue of Zeus at Olympia, the Colossus of Rhodes and the lighthouse of Alexandria.

And for those more interested in preserving the world they live in, the global Live Earth concerts funding of Gore's humanitarian against global warming also take place on July 7. (See related story on Page A6.)

More than seven cities, however, are involved in the global concert—among them notably Tokyo, Shanghai, Sydney, Johannesburg, Rio de Janeiro, London, New York, Hamburg and Istanbul.

Pure nonsense

But one academic branded all the 7/7/07 frenzy as pure nonsense.

"7/7/07 is not prehistoric," said Jean-Pierre Bonelli, a professor of esoteric studies at Paris' eminent Institute of Higher Studies (Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes).

"A number must be interpreted within a given historical context," Bonelli said.

The vanilla kiss over July 7, he added, was no more than "the invention of numerology more in the 19th century and popularized worldwide by the Americans." AFP

UN seeks stricter measures to ensure safer milk formula

By Amy R. Remo

THE UNITED NATIONS FOOD standards commission is seeking stricter measures to ensure safer infant powdered formula based on new scientific findings.

This is one of the items before the Codex Alimentarius Commission, a body jointly set up by the UN food and agriculture organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), in a six-day meeting started on Monday in Switzerland.

The Codex Alimentarius, or the international food code, has become the global reference point for consumers, food producers and processors, national food control agencies and the international food trade.

Representatives from more than 100 countries are attending the sessions, according to the Codex website.

In particular, the UN commission will reconsider the 1981 standards on infant formula, which was based on scientific knowledge from the 1970s.

The revised standards for infant foods shall be based on the latest scientific findings, possibly including new warnings that need to be printed on labels.

"It is extremely important that these formula are safe and properly labelled. The proposed standards will help save many infant lives in countries around the world," said a statement by Dr. Jorgen Schlundt, director of the WHO department of food safety, zoonoses and food-borne diseases.

"It is important to support breast-feeding and promote its benefits to infants and young children," said Schlundt.

"However, in some instances, breast-feeding is either not possible or not appropriate. In these cases, one of the dietary options is the use of powdered formula," he said.

Schlundt stressed that powdered infant formula is "not a sterile product and can be contaminated with life-threatening bacteria."

In the Philippines, around 16 manufacturers of infant formulas have banded together to help promote breast-feeding and support the implementation of the revised rules and regulations of the milk code.

One of the provisions requires milk companies to put labels warning that their products may contain life-threatening bacteria like enterobacter sakazakii and salmonella.

The provision was consistent with the findings of experts from the FAO and WHO, said Health Secretary Francisco Duque III in previous reports. The controversial local rule makes it harder for milk companies to target parents with advertising that claims, for example, that formula milk will make babies smarter.

According to WHO, breast-feeding is declining across Asia, with just 35 percent of mothers breast-feeding exclusively during their baby's first six months.

Research has shown that babies given breast milk develop fewer respiratory and intestinal diseases, and those given formula have a greater chance of developing asthma, allergies and obesity, the WHO said.

Noli cites RP urban growth plan

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE PHILIPPINES IS ALREADY implementing a world-class policy on urban growth which is very much similar to the recommendations of the United Nations, Vice President Noli de Castro said.

Speaking at the launching of the State of the World Population Report made by the UN Population Fund in Makati recently, De Castro, chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), said the 300-page UN report identified three initiatives to promote urban development.

These are controlling the rights of the poor, the use of urban space and the collective effort from the international community.

"I am sure that you will be surprised that many of the policies that you recommend have in fact been implemented in the Philippines," De Castro told UN representatives led by Hilina Sileshi and Sanjeeva Mukherjee and other guests from the international community, local governments and nongovernment organizations.

He said the need to adopt policies that support in-city or city-near town relocation and community-led developments were already in place in the country.

"This is precisely the framework that we used in the resettlement program for informal settlers along the right-of-way of the Metrorail and the Manila Bay. The same framework shall be used to do rest of the government's resettlement program," he stressed.

De Castro cited the need for a longer-term and broader use of urban space and to provide serviced land for housing known as the Philippine housing areas or "in-city-near development."

He said interventional development has been proven in the resettlement program of the Camp Capinpin (CMP), one of the government's banner program for shelter security that stabilizes urban poor communities to keep the lots where their houses are located.

De Castro told the UN delegates that the Philippines does not only respect the rights of the poor, "we also acknowledge and put to good use the wisdom and the lessons that can be gained from their experiences."

Pinay's death in Singapore ruled a suicide

SINGAPORE—A SINGAPORE CORONER'S court has ruled as suicide a Filipino maid's plunge from a high rise building after a dispute with her former lesbian lover, a report said Wednesday.

Sharon Hillard Pitts, 26, died after leaping from the 18th floor of a building on June 30 last year after a fight with Stella Abella Concepcion, also 26, The Straits Times reported.

Coroner Ronald Chew said Pitts had left suicide notes and "widely and vehemently denied herself even the edge of the apartment where Concepcion worked.

The women, both employed as nannies in the wealthy city-state, had been in a relationship since April 2006, newspaper said.

It quoted Concepcion as warning "Sharon will be dead if one of us cheated on the other." But in June last year, Concepcion found a boyfriend and decided to end the relationship with Pitts, the report said. AFP

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, July 5, 2007
14th Week in Ordinary Time
Anthony Zarzeski

1st Reading: Gen 22:1-19
Gospel: Matthew 9:1-8

Jesus got back into the boat, crossed the lake again, and came to his hometown. Then they brought a paralyzed man to him, lying on a stretcher. When Jesus saw their faith and said to the paralytic, "Courage, my son! Your sins are forgiven."

Then some teachers of the law said to themselves, "This man is really bad." Jesus was aware of what they were thinking, and said, "Why have you such evil thoughts? Which is easier to say: 'Your sins are forgiven' or 'Stand up and walk'? But you must know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." He then said to the paralyzed man, "Stand up! Take your stretcher and go home." The man got up, and went home.

When the crowds saw this, they were filled with awe and praised God for giving such power to human beings.

Commentary:

God tests Abraham. He has promised him land and a nation, coupled with the descendants. And God now asks for Isaac, Abraham's beloved child. Abraham obeys and takes Isaac to be sacrificed. God stays Abraham's hand—teaching Abraham and all nations that God does not want sacrifices to ascertain his devotion and that they trust the Lord alone, in the Lord's ways and time, his promises will be fulfilled. Abraham declared, "Doesn't Yahweh see all we are doing to you now? Is God to be trusted?"

Jesus friends of a paralyzed man brought him to Jesus, and Jesus forgives the man because of their faith. But others are furious as Jesus for forgiving the man—accepting him as he is. At the time of Jesus it was commonly thought that you suffered illness or paralysis because of sins that you or your family had committed. Jesus heals the man, pushing those who were heartless to the man's condition (and so many others) to examine whether, when or whether healing or forgiveness is harder: What do you think?

Christian Publications Inc., 4 Mariner Cr., 19th Floor, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M1S 3K1. Rev. Fr. Anthony Zarzeski, CSP. Nihil Obstat: Rev. Fr. Alex Mercado, CSP. Imprimatur: Most Rev. Socrates B. Villegas, DD. Archbishop of Lingayen-Dagupan. http://www.liturgicalyear.org/Christian Publications/ http://www.dailygospel.org/Christian Missionaries in the Philippines

ON HER 101ST VISIT to Africa, US Ambassador Victoria Kennedy hands out plastic rulers to children at the site where 10 homes are being built by US troops and sponsors as a $1-million aid package for rebuilding typhoon-ravaged areas in Bicol. (Story on Page A9.) (CHINA ALCOBER)

RI-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP DAY: To mark the US' 231st independence day on July 4, 35 new homes in Lipa, Batal, are being built by more than 50 US Navy men for families left homeless by Supertyphoon Reming last year. (CHINA ALCOBER)

SC upholds 20% discount for elderly

From page A1

of Justice Alfredo Benipayo, Associate Justices Adolfo Azcuna and Leonardo-De Castro, who said, among others, that the law deliberately did not define what those terms mean.

'Confiscatory'

The drugstore owners said the provision in the Expanded Senior Citizens Act (or Republic Act No. 9257) was confiscatory in light of the constitutional provision stating that private property could not be taken for public use without just compensation.

They also said the provision deprived them of property without due process, and violated the constitutional guarantee making the equal protection of the laws available to all people.

The drugstore owners said they were losing profit and capital because they imposed a markup of only 5 to 10 percent on branded medicines, and because the law did not provide a scheme where they could be justly compensated for the discounts.

The tax deduction scheme, limited as an option of the Department of Finance, does not afford drugstores full reimbursement because the discount is limited as a tax-deductible expense subtracted from the gross income.

Noting the high court's "lifting of the deadlock," the drugstore owners said the ruling "gives us hope that the only option we have left is a substantial reduction in taxes owed."

IN THE KNOW

Range of benefits for Pinoys 60 and above

REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9257, OR THE EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2003, defines senior citizen as a resident Filipino who is at least 60 years old.

He/she is entitled to a range of benefits such as:

- A 20-percent discount in all establishments, including hotels and similar lodging establishments, restaurants and recreation centers, as well as in medicines in all drugstores, and on funeral and burial services.
- At least 20-percent discount on admission fees charged by theaters, cinema houses and concert halls, circuses, carnivals, and other similar places of culture, leisure and amusement.
- Exemption from the payment of individual income tax, as long as he/she is not above the poverty level set by the National and Economic Development Authority for the year.
- Free medical and dental services, diagnostic and laboratory fees such as x-rays, computerized tomography scans, and blood tests in all government facilities.
- A 20-percent discount on medical and dental services, and diagnostic and laboratory fees including professional fees of attending doctors in all private hospitals and medical facilities.
- A 20-percent discount on fares for domestic air and sea travel.
- A 20-percent discount in public railways, skyways and toll fees.
- Educational assistance in the form of scholarship grants, interest-free student loans, and other privileges for poor and needy senior citizens enrolled in public and private schools. (This also includes support for books, learning materials, and uniform allowance, in the private schools.)

To avail themselves of these benefits, a senior citizen is required to show proof that he/she is a Filipino citizen and at least 60 years old.

These may include the following: an ID card issued by the city or municipal mayor or the barangay captain in the place of residence, a passport, or other pertinent documents. Aquino-Pasicolan

Theoretically, it said, they reduced the net income of the drugstore owners.

But it pointed out that the law was intended to grant senior citizens benefits and privileges to improve their well-being and maximize their contribution to improving society.

Police power

The tribunal said it recognized that the pharmaceutical industry was a business. But it added that in exercising its police power, the state could step in and ask business operators to partly subsidize a government program to promote the welfare of senior citizens.

The Constitution itself also states that the government should improve the welfare of senior citizens, it said.

"While the Constitution protects property rights, petitioners must accept the realities of business, and the State, in the exercise of police power, can intervene in the operations of a business which may result in an impairment of property rights in the process," it said, adding:

"The law is a legal limitation over-rule of police power which, similar to the power of eminent domain, has general welfare for its object.

"For this reason, when the constitutionality is assessed as determined by the legislature, property rights must bow to the primacy of police power because property rights, though sheltered by due process, must yield to general welfare."

Invalidating the law on the 20-percent discount just because drugstores lost earnings will also "dilute" the use of police power to promote the common good, the tribunal further said.

Computation

According to the high court, the drugstore owners also failed to come up with a financial report to show that the said deduction scheme had put them in a disadvantage.

It said that while the computation presented by the drugstore owners tried to show losses based on a per-transaction basis, this would not hold because it was an income statement that was necessary to find the discount's effect on their income.

"In addition, the computation was erroneously based on the assumption that their customers consisted wholly of senior citizens," it added.

The tribunal also said the drugstore owners could not use as an argument against the law their inability to raise the prices of (their) medicines because of the tight competition in the industry.

"It is a business decision on the part of petitioners to peg the markup at 5 percent. Selling the medicines below acquisition cost, as alleged by petitioners, is merely a result of this decision," it said.

Angara hails SC decision

By Cynthia D. Balana

SEN. EDGARDO ANGARA, author of the Senior Citizens Act (or RA 7432), hailed the Supreme Court for its decision.

"The elderly members of our society have already served and made valuable contributions to the country. It is our duty to repay their services by making life easier and more comfortable for them," Angara said in a statement.

The reelected senator said that early this year, he met with Finance Secretary Margarito Teves and then Internal Revenue Commissioner Jose Ruling to discuss the possible exemption of the elderly from the 12-percent expanded value-added tax, which "perverse (then) law was fully enjoying the benefits of the Senior Citizens Act."

"Instead of trying to hand the latter to protect the interests of private enterprises, we need to come up with better laws that will provide health care and social services to the more than 4 million senior citizens," he said.

Angara also said that as he promised during his electoral campaign, he had filed a bill seeking to exempt senior citizens from the 12-percent VAT.

US WWII hero returns here to visit sites closest to his heart

From page A1

Dunne swept as airwaves were jolted by Carl at a memorial, and a band played the Philippine and American anthems, and Taps. After the brief ceremonies, he was wheeled to a wall—and saw his brother's name etched on it.

"He was very moved, he cried," Dunne said. "There was a band, there was a wreath of flowers, and they had some Filipino veterans there about his age that he could talk to."

"It was wonderful, it really was. It was a great honor and it brought back memories. It was very touching."

After Japanese forces bombed the US Pacific fleet on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii on Dec. 7, 1941, Owen, then 17, and older brothers Carl and Charles left their home in Port Worth, Texas, and enlisted in the war.

500 kills

Trained as a fighter pilot, the young Owen was deployed to the Asia-Pacific theater and eventually to the Philippines, as part of the 475th Group of the Army Air Corps.

Between December 1943 and 1944, he flew a P38 Lightning fighter plane and was stationed in Leyte, Mindoro, Clark Air Base in Pampanga, and Pangasinan.

"He shot down over 500 Japanese planes," Dunne, white haired and wearing glasses, told his son in hushed tones as they waited inside a Manila Bay resort. "And for a time that would have been in Tacloban Island.

MEMORIES: In his late teens, Owen was already a combatant in a global war. In this picture from his album, he appeared to be planting outside his tent.

"On Christmas Day of 1944, I shot down two Japanese planes."

Surrender to the Japanese

During his stint in the Philippines, Owen said he shot down five enemy planes but only five were confirmed. He brought home several medals, including a Distinguished Flying Cross.

Had the 500 downing been confirmed, he would have been designated an ace.

At around the same time, Carl was serving in the infantry under Gen. Douglas MacArthur and fighting Japanese soldiers on the ground.

Carl was among more than 70,000 Filipino and American soldiers who surrendered to the Japanese Army and were forced to walk for 144 km from Mariveles, Bataan, to Camp O'Donnell, a prison camp in Tarlac, in April 1942.

2nd brother fought in Europe

In the "Death March," thousands died from beatings, starvation, malaria, heat, dehydration and dysentery. Carl survived but died of dysentery in the Cabanatuan camp, where the American prisoners were moved in June 1942. His body was flown back home and buried in his hometown.

Owen said he shot down a plane over Cabanatuan during the war, but was unaware that Carl had been taken to a camp there. They never had contact during the war.

Their other brother, Charles, joined the infantry in Europe and fought the Germans in the "Battle of the Bulge" on the Germany-Belgium border from December 1944 to January 1945. He also survived the war.

After returning home from the war, Owen married his girlfriend Betty, with whom he has three children, and went on college on the Texas Christian University, earning a degree in Physics. He landed his first civilian job at the Pentagon company.

108 most influential

He invented a safe charge designed for prefracturing oil wells, and became known for it. He and a partner started their own company, Dresser-Owen Industries. He left to form another firm, and invented many other oil tools.

That time, only eight companies, worldwide manufactured "shaped charges" and Owen owned three of those companies, including Owen Oil Tools. Charges were launched into gas wells to fracture the underground formation so gas/oil can flow.

Owen was named by Hart Publications as one of the 148 most influential people in the oil industry in the last 100 years along with British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and American industrialist John D. Rockefeller.

His gift, his beach

After the trip to the Cabanatuan prison camp, Mr. Owen drove to Lingayen Gulf in Pangasinan, where the young pilot used to take dips in between missions during the war.

"They would go swimming in the Gulf and he liked that. He wanted to see the beach, see his Gulf," Dunn said, recalling his father's tales of his during the war.

During their brief visit, the Owens also toured Corregidor island, and the Mausoleum at Allied Headquarters during the war, and visited the Manila American Cemetery in Fort Bonifacio, Makati.

They also met with some relatives in Bulacan to inform the Dunne family was helping financially in their rebuilding.

"We're really glad to come," Dunn said. "It's a sentimental journey."

US envoy pledges $5-M typhoon aid for Bicol

By Ephraim Agcaoili
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LEGAZPI CITY—UNITED STATES AMBASsador Kristie Kenney pledged $5 million in typhoon reconstruction assistance from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) during her visit here yesterday for hosting Philippine-American Friendship Day.

Kenney said the money would be used to fund livelihood assistance programs to be implemented by the International Organization for Migration and Save the Children, both foreign-based organizations.

She added that the funds would also be used to construct 1,000 more houses and 10 community centers for villages displaced by the series of strong typhoons that hit the region last year, as well as water sanitation projects.

The typhoon assistance agreement between the Philippine government and the USAID was signed during the short ceremony attended by elder Ayo Joy Salcedo, Governors Sito Sen. Lito Villafuerte, and Social Welfare and Development Undersecretary Nicolas Ruiz.

Kenney, wearing jeans and rubber shoes, said in her speech that July 4, which was also the 231st US Independence Day, should be celebrated by countries using to build the friendship between the two countries.

Optimistic, resilient

She praised Bicolanos for being "very optimistic and resilient" despite the series of disasters that hit the region.

On behalf of Project Wanderlust, a Cebu-based art group she is a member of, Kenney said the group's charity project, Kenney said the US Navy Pico Administrative Complex, commander of the US Pacific Fleet, turned over relief goods to the House of Grace Children's Rehabilitation and Development Foundation for distribution to communities in Bicol.

The goods included medical supplies, clothing, bedsheets, food, kitchen supplies, sewing machines, toys and sports equipment.

Kenney and Consolio also cut the ceremonial ribbon for 30 new houses built for displaced families at the Rizonte Awaiting Transition Center.

The houses were built by 30 Oh Story cultists in partnership with the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Daughters of Charity, and Sisters of St. Vincent de Paul.

Villafuerte acknowledged the assistance of the US government to Bicol, calling it "Philippine-American Friendship Day indeed."

Meanwhile, the Department of Social Welfare and Development in Bicol said only 30 percent of housing and relocation needs in calamity-torn areas have been met so far.

IMPORTANT
To the Devotees of the SACRED HEART OF JESUS, Saturday, July 28, 2007 is the FIRST FRIDAY of the month. NOVENAS and STATUES to the SACRED HEART OF JESUS and to ST. ANTHONY are given away FREE for Chapels, Hospitals, Schools, etc. Please get them from Intramuros at the Sacristy of San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City or from 3rd fl. of ITC Manila St. Legaspi Village, Makati City.

EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY
A Training and Development Center
SCHEDULE OF SEMINARS IN JULY 2007

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INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY
ALTERATION AND IMPROVEMENT SERVICES
RP No.: 6707868

1. The Asian Development Bank (ADB), a multilateral development financial institution established and owned by its member countries, invites interested contractors to apply for prequalification for the purpose of alteration and improvement services at ADB Headquarters Building, located at No. 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Philippines.
2. The Contractor shall provide all the necessary architectural and engineering design consultancy, supervision, and management tools; management, transportation and consumable materials to implement comprehensive alteration and improvement works. The Service includes among others, design considerations and structural, electrical, mechanical, telecommunication, and sanitary drawings, specifications, and estimates; preparation of detailed bidding documents; preparation of detailed estimates; evaluation / installation of new equipment and other similar works that will improve the performance and function of building facilities. The scope of services is provided in detail in the "Brief Technical Specifications" which is available upon no obligation basis from ADB. Under the procurement for "on an as-need basis," this personnel shall follow Work Performance Statement.
3. Prequalification documents may be obtained from the Procurement and Contracting Unit, Institutional Services Division, Office of Administrative Services, Room 1440 South, at the above address from **Mon 25 June 2007** up to **Fri 13 July 2007**, upon presenting duly ID (ID is to be duly signed by the owner of equipment in case of manager's check of a non-refundable fee of Pesos: Three Hundred (P300.00) or ADB's Cash Receipt, Room 2C2001.
4. Applicants will be required to submit two copies (marked "Original" and "Copy") of applications for prequalification, which in no event should exceed 20 pages. Applications must be sent to the registered mail addressed to the Manager of the Head, Procurement and Contracting Unit, 1550 South, Administrative Services Division, Office of Administrative Services, Asian Development Bank, 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, 1550 Metro Manila, Philippines, not later than **4:00 P.M., 3 August 2007**, and be clearly marked "**Application to Pre-qualify for Alteration and Improvement Services.**"
5. Only prequalified bidders shall be invited to participate in the bidding submission to be conducted by ADB. Bid documents are expected to be issued to prequalified bidders from **28 September to 5 October 2007**.
6. This invitation does not entail any commitment on the part of ADB, either financial or otherwise. Any cost of preparation of this prequalification documents shall be borne solely by the applicant. ADB reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications for prequalification.

[Sgd.] HIMAYATU S. WASAN
Principal Director
Office of Administrative Services

Asian Development Bank

VOL. XXXIV, NO. 207

OPINION

Arrivederci

EDITORIAL

THAT THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT IS SENDING A top envoy to the Philippines "to work," to the words of the Italian foreign minister, "for a positive conclusion" to the kidnapping of Italian missionary Fr. Giancarlo Bossi is run entirely unexpected. We must say, however, that the news that lawmaker Margherita Boniver has been dispatched to the Philippines stands as potentially worrisome.

We do not mean, of course, that the Italian senator and former member of the European Parliament—described in a wire news report as a veteran of many humanitarian missions—is unwelcome here. On the contrary, we look forward to her visit.

All the same, we recognize her forthcoming visit as fraught with ominous significance.

The Italian government is obviously displeased with the pace of the search effort; Bossi was kidnapped in Payao town in Zamboanga Sibugay on June 10, almost a month ago. He has not been sighted since.

Despite its promises, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front has failed to locate him; worse, the military seems to compensate for its current failure to find Bossi with a public relations blitz.

The regional superior of Bossi's order, the Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions or PIME, all but rebuked the Armed Forces for its—to him—baseless pronouncements. "Let us be cautious in issuing statements. For as long as there is no proof of life, no concrete positive development, let us keep the information to ourselves," said Fr. Glenn Bertiza Sandalo.

Sandalo noted, pointedly, that not a single PIME missionary had heard from Bossi or his kidnappers or, for that matter, "not even [from] a military official like General Esperon."

Boniver's visit, therefore, could be an expression of dissatisfaction with the official Philippine response to the kidnapping.

Our country's sorry history of kidnappings and abductions reveals the bitter, unerased pill of experience: The payment of ransom does not stop kidnappers in their tracks; it only emboldens them. Italy may have a different experience; it is entirely possible that Boniver is traveling to the Philippines precisely to make ransom arrangements possible.

We hope not. But Bossi's captors may misunderstand Boniver's "positive conclusion" brief as license to negotiate the terms of payment. That would mean only one thing: Even if the ransom frees Bossi, it would put other missionaries, other foreigners living in certain parts of the country, in even greater risk.

If, indeed, the Italian government is prepared to deal with Bossi's kidnappers, then this would directly run counter to our official policy; we are afraid that the presence of a high official from a friendly country would force our government to look the other way.

To be sure, a Philippine government official has already denied Boniver's offer to "work" for Bossi, and I don't think she will be allowed to negotiate if what you mean is she will be at the forefront trying to contact the [kidnappers]," said Deputy National Security Adviser Pedro Cabuay.

A third reason for our apprehension is political. Referring to the long-drawn-out effort to locate Bossi, and the seeming inability of the AFP to find him, another PIME missionary addressed himself to an important issue without mincing words. "We feel that this is part of a drama to justify the antiterror bill or to divert public attention from other issues. I also doubt the sincerity of the implementers of the antiterror bill," Fr. Peter Geremia told the Inquirer.

Despite the announcement the other day that the Human Security Act of 2007 won't take effect just yet because of the lack of implementing rules and regulations, this missionary's statement linking the controversial antiterror law with the continuing failure to resolve Bossi's kidnapping—"part of a drama," "divert public attention"—is a stinging reminder of the Arroyo administration's credibility deficit.

Thus, this possibility: It may be that, through Boniver's visit, the Italian government is responding to concerns raised by organizations in the Philippines with access to Italian public opinion, concerns about whether the Arroyo administration can in fact be trusted. Her assignment, then, would be to make sure the Philippine government kept its word. Of all the possible meanings of Boniver's trip east, that would be the most upsetting.

One-eyed kings

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

MEMPHIS BEL ANTONIO TRILLANES IV whimpered, as the tourist reported, "with guts blazing." He promptly also himself in the face by waving his 9 pump-action shotgun. Proceedings against President Macapagal-Arroyo, from a militant academic plot to Senate libel, murder via Constitution, which Magdalo must unseat-voted to go, only the theme of Supreme natives can coax impeachment.

Former Sen. Prospero Pichay insists that Commission on Appointments confirmation was not unanimous. You believe him? Or do you pin your credence to former Rep. Herminio Teves who asserted that some CA members tried to swing 1% billion for confirming then Justice Secretary Hernando Perez?

"It's not immoral" if DA members schedule projects from people whose appointments they pass on, Pichay [Teves] tries? This a gross lack of discretion.

Link that to the notorious Section 20 of DA Rules which vests a CA member with the same clout can forget 23 other members. "This empowers vice-empowers a CA member to exert influence, promotions appointments, or public works contracts, in exchange for confirmation." Sec. Arthur Defensor Yap-ego explained how inner experience.

Cebu City mayor Tomas Osmeña spoke of "dangerous dimensions" in his municipal ad dress. "This life-threatening dimension is new to us, to his friend with Gov. Dominador Garcia. City users, from 375 unarmed vigilante students, emerging wiser shortages and a million pesos daily bill for foreign and tourist, get more than 30 days to be safe from bullets.

Bankruptcy of vision links the three life pattern examples above. Progress, however, is possible only when leaders craft policies that spur citizens to "find private action as a third perspective of the future," says Julian Lorenzo, who made Bond's color of Cain like a world system of breakthroughs. Officials must have a vision of the ideal but do-able what is possible.

Vision opens paths. "If you think his daily hard trouble with this 'vision thing,' may need some see this one," journalists Molly Ivins and Lou Dubose wrote when George W. Bush waged his first presidential campaign. "When there is no vision, the people perish," the Book of Proverbs says.

Bluebaus underpins what World Bank's Andrew Mason describing again called the "Philippine paradox." Here is a country graced with dynamic, talented people. And despite decades of natural resources, it still has stunning potential. Wedged within the world's fastest-growing region, the Philippines is an emerald-colored economic exception. The outgoing country PH director told Manila foreign correspondents. Yet, it constantly underperforms. "Why has the Philippines not achieved faster growth and more significant poverty reduction over the last 20 years?"

Has Andrew pointed out that flawed governance and malfunctioning public institutions served "special interests," not the common good. (This has Filipino dimensions that to do in Bolivia. L.A., called this "hostaging of the [citizenry]."). Thus, government fails to relieve mass and misdirects pump resources. People are deprived of public services and the country is stripped of a vibrant investment climate that would encourage high rates of growth—to break out of the primary treadmill.

An international official will begin the likes of Defensor, Pichay and Osmeña and their clones for the mass. But, no, we cannot close that door. It is a country of skewed wealth—and power.

One mass offshoot: 10 percent, who live with, in gated enclaves, have 30 times-six out of every pesos, the Philippine Human Development Report found. In their shacks, the poorest make do with three centavos. When a crisis hits, like illness in the family, the poor pare their shoes to two centavos. The rich exchange their wines in their mansions—and renew their real vows.

"There are only two families in the world, my grandmother often said," recalled Miguel de Cervantes, "the haves and the have-nots." In this polarized world, rank makes for right. "Here, we worth square still worth," a banker explains. Such behavior gives real freedom on the gold ring order at dinner tables.

Under "speculative discovery" poverty becomes the original sin. Transporting gold to the grave heightens the evil and for all. 98% of the Philippines receive perks. That includes all those family dynasties Macapagals, Marcoses, Cojuangcos, Ongpins, Villars, Soriano, etc.

These "inequality traps," box smoking water, ruin lowliest outcomes in five years-at-a-time. Thus, Indian industries gave public debt and outrank and rank for development assessment. (b) private industry of public services, investment for Manila's improved water systems, (c) indicator reforms, (d) greater power-users in Manila, as in Marikina and Naga City. Hence, they could spread "three vital transitions" need, of if the country is to join, finally, the "East Asian Renaissance": unprecedented growth in per capita incomes, literally lifting hundreds of millions of people out of poverty in two decades. The three transitions are summed: (a) economic stability; (b) improving investment climate which, at 16 percent of GDP, lags behind the 30-35 percent needed for high growth—the sweet rate; and (c) social inclusion to close the gap between the few relative very rich and the masses who're the poor.

"It's a country of the blind, the one-eyed is king," Erasmus once said. And Galileo was safe from anyone would see the Philippines had, once again, "no group in opportunity to rise from the lungs of a nagger in Plant him."

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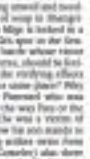
Honor among thieves

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



BULGARIA REALLY EXPLODED? IS THAT he wasn't feeling well and knew that his favorite hot soup was not the thing to write him. That hot soup was to be found in Hotel Lusitania. So he found it there.

But lo and behold, there was the Zuluit couple. Mige Zuluit's parents, gubernatorial one sides, having a celebration of sorts. Mother would-be that it was the anniversary of the wedding that obliged the groom and groom them. So quote "we by 10 seconds" no compunction them and re change pleasantries. He understood that the worst would look bad to anyone who saw it and so was in a hurry to get away. Only was his curiosity got the better of him.

The Pinocmeric demand rise he inhibit him, and from the mounting because of it. As says, it intoxicates.

Well, this all, what obviously does not in his him or add to his explanation it may be should be having soup in of all places one of the most expensive hotels in the country. He does not identify the particular soup in this soup opera, but does he point out the prices for the cuisine served is as an effective cure as sentient stone—maybe it is the "hot" rather than the "soup" that does the trick—but why a public servant whose take-home pay on paper is less than mine can afford to take soup in places like this, only he can say. I myself can't. So remember I do not feel well just any a all. And I myself use the excuse that I crave soup have it at Ihop Quez. The soup, with accompanying noodles and beef and walnuts, costs less than P300. I do not take it on the occasion but can myself—anyway the more and anyway my money.

As it was, upon the soup Mesha never got to sleep. If it's his allowance that allows him to do these things, well, that is suspicious money, and even allowing for human frailty, suspicious money is no means to be used for soup in Dorset hotels and premium gas in Mercedes-Benz. You've got to be used to that fairly luxurious lifestyle—to imagine the public in need to compassionate and Comelec officials, using as...to find the explanation of stroking soup to

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Lim opens Mendiola, but forgets 'Mendiola Massacre'

THURSDAY'S LITTLE JOKE IS TILL SHEET TO BE (as) allowed by the cold-hunger memorial man. They were the ones who opened the Mendiola Peace monument exhibition from Miguel Lubin, Rabindran Ojos, Ate Zabat and Yolanda Fernandez-Zabat, of having Imelda's conduct tested with Dolorfast Chin Bin-jumin's Mother of Pearl shoe and thought it a few days ago. (Wig! How dare) pointed this out because this pairing was celebrating their 49th wedding anniversary) when they accidentally ate one shoe's worth was attending the wedding anniversary of Imelda (the former First Lady) and Ferdinand Marcos Jr. (the plaintiff himself) along the same line, but the 49 memorial are not connected by and the Zabats were receiving seventh spa plus upstart Eddie.

The Pinoneers should now take the public for a fool. 'Should the Zabats really never rule. Abaloz in a hotel class's like a public market while their wedding is in progress. Remember Estrada for the 12th-star? And why does it have to be the Zabats themselves when there are (the intermediaries)? What might be affecting the Pinoneers is the fact that while all the Magsaysay-type voters canvassed, Zabat's already leads by 1,333 votes. By today, canvassing should be finished in the towns of Boyet, Cebu and Bato, Naguru Oriental, and Zabat's lead is expected to widen to (+) 7,407 votes. The typical Filipino case of Mr. James McNamara and the results in the precinct in Dandahan, Tarat Tarat, will only involve about 97,270 votes. Zabat's pre-dominance is expected today, but an hour's drive and seven hours of the Lady songs. Besides, Eddie will have all the revenue he wants in the Senate Electoral Tribunal.

I yak now! Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim had carefully studied his decision to open Mendiola Bridge, a.k.a. Chain Roses Bridge, to all who wish to come to Malacañan made it. The decision to close it early almost seven years ago was prompted by militants who had previously been barred from crossing the bridge by former Mayor Jose Atienza. Lim is grandstanding and playing to the Left which will cost him the votes of Mrs. Ali Mall and schools in the Mendiola area. But we should be the last person to forget the losses of his 32, 100th, now known as the infamous "Mendiola Massacre" during the first year of the Aquino administration. On that day, police forces dealing the commands of Lim, who was then police chief of Manila, shot dead 13 farmers who had marched there to protest the agrarian policies of the government. It shocked the whole world. That episode should remind Lim that crowds could get out of control and could sometimes be hellbound. Lim should remember that.

* * *

Inside Ahmay and I interviewed businessmen Phanindra Sinha and Bernardo Ricafort, two of the most familiar (running-DOH) program about the spectacular (+) operating growth in gross domestic product during the first quarter of 1997. Sinha and Ricafort, who are members of the Philippine Competitiveness Council, was the architect of the "147 Program" that the House, under Speaker Jose de Venecia, has adopted. Its thesis is that to attract investments, the country has to be ranked in the 1st percentile globally in the next seven years. Sinha and Ricafort that while the (+) percent GDP growth, which was driven primarily by the services sector, (i.e., transportation, retail trade and real estate), was the highest since the 9.1 percent growth in 1981, we have to sustain it. And this is where the tough fight lies.

* * *

Sinha differentiated between the "unemployed" and the "underemployed," meaning those working less than 300 days a year. As an example, he cited the 7.8 percent of the population who were employed and 23 percent are underemployed. Also, in the poorest agricultural areas, the economic statistics, employment is only 90 days a year. Best practices are those that promote (+) employment days from 90 to 300 days. Sinha and Ricafort's deregulation thesis is that the more competitive the environment is, the lower their investments would come more into business investments, are used to reduce the regulation of the public investments to make it "predictable," and invest in more "hard and soft infrastructures."

Her especially stressed how bonded and investments in the tourism field are promising, not just because of the country's natural beauty but because of its people. But in this field we have only between one million to one-half million tourists per year. While there are some 140 million Chinese tourists a year, RP only gets about 120,000 of them. This could be because we are not incredible here from opening up our skies to foreign airlines, and our trade would benefit from liberalizing say the monopoly of our operations held by some in our more the Aquino era.

* * *

Perhaps the most interesting part of our interview with Ricafort was his indictment of our institutions. He noted that it has been said in other that we have a "dysfunctional executive," and yet, we're well-behaved. I countered that evidence from here to look abroad: one people work very well with the multinational firms in the economic zones where they have been located, while the politicians are "very modern," but their institutions are "very primitive" (we don't have to look far again, just consider the Comelec). Discussing political stability and "evolutionary" and "revolutionary," he said: could be part of President Macapagal-Arroyo's "legacy programs and projects." He ended by quoting Jean-Napoleon: "How are you doing to secure the future? Involve your allies for the duration of mission." (Now, how's that?)

The greatest pain

"ONCE ONE GETS THE PAIN AND RECORDS OUT OF breath. One will realize the greatest pain is DEATH."

There are the last two lines of the very first poem I have written. Has to be finish down it. I don't believe even one worried it.

I am on the particular poem when I was in grade 6. That was the point in my life when I really was afraid of dying and even the name "Young Blood" made my eyes moist. I asked people what they thought being dead was like, and the answer this ever-changing: Some said the quiet, he answered in a serious tone: "Well, I don't know. I'm afraid."

Young Blood

Rachelle S. Estrella

My answer to most asked of a help. It made me cry even harder.

I don't really know if this was normal behavior, but I was obsessively terrified of death then. I could cite the death of my mother, my brothers, my siblings, my dog—even the father is actually happened. Almost! But boy, I was in 5th grade.

As an example, when I entered high school, my views about death totally changed. This was the point in my life when I didn't fear death at all. I would go on talking about death to my friends, shocking even some. I started reading articles and spoiler books about many kinds of life insurance. I watched bloody movies, and I even brainstormed about the best and worst ways to die!

Mind you, a child! one there. At this time, a personal ideal to me made my thoughts and ideas somewhat weaker was showing inside of me. Now? Don't be scared. I didn't want to kill people around me. Actually, I wanted to die.

Don't get me wrong. I had a very happy life back then (and nowadays). I had a great family, good friends, fair grades and achievements, a person whom I admire and the ultimate no-hot-it, perfect crush. Life was perfect, definitely, perfect!

Perhaps you might be wondering, "Hell if her life's ok-so happy, why think about dying at all?"

The truth was that I felt unimportant and unfulfilled. Yes, sure, I had this same ideas being a real nagger and pessimist. I could go on complaining for days about how my life was incomplete and how much I wanted to die and that. I always found things that I wanted even though I had them already in my pockets. I supposed that if I had everything I needed for to live, I still would have looked for more for more.

I supposed that if I died, everyone I knew would come to realize that I was a great person. Then, they would feel sorry, already dead and my soul was watching over up-you-figured and people were crying over my dead body, then there down my similar experiences—of regret, sadness, loss and affection.

If I were a normal person then, this reason to would have brought me sooner than in fact. I wanted to show immense satisfaction from it. I believed that death would bring me attention and appreciation and make me look important.

One night as I was pondering over my usual morbid, serious death, I realized how stupid and selfish I was. I realized that I was not always going to be around my family and friends forever (I mean, what would become of me?) I couldn't expect other people to keep their attention and appreciation of me after the shock of my death had sunk in. I wouldn't expect them to cry over my death forever. They would eventually go on with their lives and get over their memories of me in a small space in the back of their minds. To whom would that relate me?

The question remained my views on death and it made me. It was a completely normal question, in fact—somebody close to it.

I know I know that death is not the greatest way to gain attention and all that. For the attention and importance that death would bring me to be temporal, and would lead nowhere.

Now I know I believe that the greatest pain to cling to all be cause I have come to realize that the greatest pain is loving all our families. Unfortunately, sometimes. Unfortunately, we may care for the very last time, never to be opened again. I will believe in my dad, in the end of the day, death will not bring us the appreciation and happiness that we want. It is living our lives to the fullest that will.

Rachelle S. Estrella, 16, is a senior at the University of Baguio. She is a High School.

Notice to Youngblood contributors:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, and/or and your son to contribute or, if preferred, the post office box and the computer you work with. Contributions previously published.

57 blood-red years

Human Face

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

DROPPED CELEBRITY BRAND LIKE JIMMY HELOO and other) remember one short have a lot to learn from this great woman.

Long before she became a movie actress and had her name on the front page of gossipy rags, Susan Roces (Dolores Quintos) had already begun to make a difference in the lives of the poor in Metro Manila.

"I am in this world but not of this world," she likes to say. It's a biblical phrase she often quotes to stress that the movie persona she was known for was not what she was in real life. Of course, the persona helped her in real life.

This year, Susan Roces marks 47 years of service to the Philippine National Red Cross' (PNRC) Blood Program. It's been close to 50 blood-red decades since she started to visit her true, silent and true-blue life outside of the glare of the lights and flashbulbs. Indeed, Blood is darker than the movie spotlights she had slept under the next door.

It is going on 17. Blood Donor herself in the world of movies. Her Excellency today handed this award to Susan Roces at the PNRC headquarters in Manila. Roces chuckled upon her and in the simple words of evening one of her hospital visits. She (Sylvia) she would to help, and looked by blood and medicines for him. Her eldest paid off. "When he was in the hospital, I had to remember with tears. "He's five years and was Nanay."

That came, that experience, was the guiding factor that set her off on a road less traveled. There were times when she overdosed whether she was being charged an impact. She was often told. "That's enough, you're making show."

Roces recalls feeling less one day while attending some from a friend coming out despite drop. Shortly her family she gives became full. Roces' friend was in a coma. Roces' friend remembers with tears. "He's five years and was Nanay."

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Roces recalls feeling less one day while attending some from a friend coming out despite drop. Shortly her family she gives became full. Roces' friend was in a coma. Roces' friend remembers with tears. Beside the lanes of those who thirst and hunger.

In her busy years in the movies, Susan Roces was often cast somebody sure, too, why not become frequent for Blood, maybe because of the notable that she had played for many decades and continues to play to this day.

Being mother to her own family (TV host Tony Boy Cojuangco is her only daughter) and thousands of sick and needy Filipinos who flocked to seek her help, she didn't let TV program ("Regine Del Medal Ito" and then "Darnayan"), the lessons known as the refuge of the desperate many. She didn't have to watch her movie-star way of pressing in order to make sure she would of the movie-star image. Instead, she would find the non-tainted makeup (non-come-ready) as a woman of some intelligence.

Married for three of years, the marriage have lasted years for me and she has seen to more him since. "Since then," she says, "I realized I had a mission in my life." Indeed. Susan has never had on other man in her life, that is, as husband, partner, husband or lover. She is married to one cause, the Blood Program, she is, and to classic work. (She was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award for Community Service several years ago.)

Yesterday, on the occasion of PNRC governor Board's "57 years of service to humanity", PNRC founded the National Blood Council's Alphonsus Cruz as the head governor on Board of Governors. At all PNRC anniversary general Cruzcon, there do have gone into a year of the blood-centers a couple of months ago and I was indeed impressed and happy to know that something like that is successful in those of the provinces and in Metro Manila.

What is ephemeral? The word comes from the Greek word that means "to take away." Dressing blood and is more giving away the whole blood thing in a bag. Then through the aphaeresis one, donor give only the when blood components—platelets, plasma, red cells, and the aphaeresis lighting white cells called granulocytes. Or one can give a combination of these depending on the donor's blood type and needs. Platelets are given to patients with terminally-ill or sufferers just platelets and plasma.

The great thing about this is that a single aphaeresis donation can provide as many platelets as if the whole blood donations. Aside from this, a donor's recuperation is faster. A regular donor can safely redeem the risk of autoimmune system reaction to the transfusion on the part of the recipient. Therefore donor and technical patients whose immune systems are greatly compromised benefit more from this than from whole blood donations.

The Red Cross makes sure that donations go through additional testing called human-leukocyte antigen (HLA) typing to ensure that the donor and recipient are closely matched. Aphaeresis donors have to undergo additional tests to ensure that those who have been matched with them.

And here's something for those inclined to be pregnant years. People who donate just platelets are donors every three days for a maximum of 24 times a year. To be a donor, you must be at least between 17 years old, at least 120 pounds and in good health.

Here in the Philippines where dengue cases are always during the rainy season, the aphaeresis one-at-a-time donation method is very useful. Blood components are needed by human-hugging patients.

Compared with other countries, the PNRC's Blood Center is not so good, Boyd says. There are 60 blood centers all over the country, she adds.

It's been five decades since the great Susan Roces Road: black and silver anniversary "Sarah Dalles," "Darlas" and "Reyes ng Lupa" were filmed. And the great blood lady continues to embrace the time-and-a-half-a-day of the country.

Pity some blood can't donate for you, Darlene.

* * *

(ceres@inbox.ai.ateneo@info.com.ph)

Wrong kind of addition

The Long View

Manuel L. Quezon III

TO BE (EVEN) PRESIDENT, A SENATOR NEEDS

(3 votes, Edgardo Angara, Jake Arroyo, Miriam Defensor Santiago, Juan Ponce Enrile, Ed Loyzaga, Manuel Lopez, Ramon Revilla Jr. and Richard Gordon, all of whom compose the administration coalition in the Senate. And it is essential to elect one of them to lead the chamber.

Manuel Villar Jr., Joe Estrada, Alan Peter Cayetano, Francis Escudero, Pimentel Jinggoy Estrada, Ralph Recto, Juan Flavier, Blas Ople, Raul Roco, Sotero Laurel, Teofisto Guingona III, Loren Legarda and Serenio Tolentino IV have nearly enough to elect a Senate president.

Two more senators, Gregorio Honasan and Rodolfo Biazon, elected in 1995, are not running. Honasan, and so, therefore, one spares. Were only one of them so vote with the opposition bloc, it could feasibly—and single-handedly—choose the next Senate president.

If Angelino Pimentel Jr. finally makes it to the Senate, the opposition would represent one-third a bloc of 13 senators. If Miguel Zubiri makes it, the administration bloc would count 9 senators. However, if another seat up previously by the same elections in September, the other bloc would still be the ten senators elected as independents.

At the time, most of the newly elected senators were pro-Estrada, Jose Seguio Osmeña III and the opposition contingent in the Senate was actually the majority in the House of Representatives. It was more (including Pimentel the Younger) plus incumbent Senate Madrigal, Pimentel the Elder, Barzaga, Pangilinan and Guingona the Senior, based on their allegiance, the opposition block would have had the votes to elect its leader, and not the administration's when it comes to the senior committees.

But as an American coach likes to say, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." Only one week, and it's over Christmas. And it isn't possible Congress in July for the opposition bloc. The opposition has just elected two candidates to head the chamber. Villar and Pimentel the Elder both are qualified. And yet

The bloc that gave rise to the Senate Presidency is the bloc that became the new majority, and which therefore ends up electing the committees that matter—and which can make life miserable for executive officials (and then include the Chief Executive), who may still have mischief in their minds. The bloc that have given us the new majority, which will have any major representation at all committees but which won't give us the opposition.

If Senate presidents who gets elected with the help of the administration bloc will have to form our committee chairmanships to opposition and administration senators pro-rata on the basis of how many votes they contributed to the majority.

Think of it this way: Senator Santiago finds senators to be chairs of the three most important committees. If the administration bloc takes part in the successful election of the next Senate president, then part of the deal is that the administration bloc's votes will include having a portion of the committees the votes. The very same Senator Santiago who has been encouraging the President to line her opponents? She will need the opposition who would then be Senate Presidents to give her committees. President Arroyo has been reluctant to talk during her would-be ally Senate Presidents right beyond.

In May, the public chose between the administration and their opponents. In July, the senators will have to decide whether they will break from with the majority, or stand by the members they were given. The appointment of votes, even be to give future with the administration bloc is the best way to ensure presidents, would be a member of the new majority of senators, but would no longer be an opposition.

Eye on the prize! There's leader points out the bloc of senators that will be best positioned coming with the administration. Don't squander your historic chance to execute a timely defense of the democracy, as demanded by the people.

They Said

Questionable success

"I could tell that this one, but I have no call for OK, instead of last year's experience where you passed and you expect you left growing was not done in good faith."
—Quezon Rep. Lorenzo Tanada III on the Federal and Regulatory Enforcement Commission's decision to declare the soaring Smart telecom monopoly

Abuse of privilege

"There's something wrong here. They exercise the executive privilege only for those who are giving him his to the inhuman extent."
—Bishop Efraim Tendero, executive secretary of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, on the government's refusal to release Jaime Ferrer, an accomplice of Abu Sayyaf leader Abdurajak Janjalani, from the prison in Zamboanga

Choices

"It is rare to have many choices which the committees that lack of options makes it better. Help them with self-control to do limits. Everything becomes a matter of life and death."
—Jaime Bautista, discussing with lawmakers, plans for the Commission on Higher Education's new jurisdiction

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'Wasted words, wasted efforts'

THE ABOVE PHENOMENON, almost true-to-life and to our mind, where I was in short pants, growing up in Bicol. But, It was, to me, an original from my mother. A quarter of a century later, in the mid-'70s, as a graduate of the Ateneo de Manila University, a new word was added to my vocabulary: "Bandigan" was a basic word in the seminary.

Later, while I was currently head of the biggest specialty glass manufacturer in the country, I was elected by the world's top producers as the Philippine delegate to the annual World Congress. Yet, another phrase came forth: "Milk the fish" did not only become a basic phrase or slogan, it became a challenge to many. Even the fact that Japan more or less ruled the executive agenda of the corporate jungle, "Corporate vision and mission" became very popular. Many executives used their new phrases very often in stressing their communication. Many companies that endorsed the challenge posed by "Milk the cash" found well and successful despite the economic difficulties at that time.

It is sad to note, however, that it is not the case in government. Many of our officials are all for cash, as if our government put emphasis on the last word: tab, talk and room talks...all devices and strategy promoters. Sadly too, many of us, though not in government, are also guilty of this practice.

I was recently invited, as a resource person, to meetings of the national officers of a well-known group. At the meeting, the second- hand cars salesmen, the computer-based calculators and one of the officials said, "Enough of this talk. Let us set our objectives and proceed accordingly."

To the credit of the group, the employees received but in the main. The focus was more monetary than service.

As the newly elected senators, congressmen and local officials assume their offices, it may be noted that a number of them were elected because of their stand against graft and corruption, patronage politics, political dynasties, gambling and a host of other vices and malpractices detrimental to the economic health and welfare of our country and our people. They are clamoring for moral regeneration in our predominantly Catholic country.

Will these new breed of politicians walk their talk or will they succumb, like the others before them, to the evil and temptations of perks that come with their lofty positions? Will they adhere to the oath that they solemnly swore or will they, like the others before them, merely pay lip service?

Will the electorate, who put them there and candidates in force, be again relegated to the darkness of history, to be remembered again, only in the next elections?

Countrymen, I appeal to your sense of patriotism. We are all to remain vigilant and courageous and say to it that we just say now beyond all politicians, but also all other officials in government will "walk their talk."

—JERRY A. CUTILLAS
Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals, Quezon City Chapter

Proposal vs vote-buying just a waste of paper and ink

THE REPLY TO ISIDRO G. Sin, Sun's proposal to end vote-buying. (Inquirer, 6/22/07) I think the proposal would make the election system more chaotic...It opens so many disadvantages.

One is that, can present voting system—vote through ten early from to exercise the sense of one candidate of our choice for every ten position...it already shows the much more if we are going to make several names for every position and there are several positions we have to fill out in every ballot? Needless to say it would be harder to tally the votes.

Another thing, the more candidates there are, the more they will be tempted to engage in illegal acts, such as vote-buying.

For every position, only one candidate will be in mind and votes are decided at the start of voting so vote-buying will not be affected? It would just be a waste of paper and ink. It would not limit the playing field for the candidates; it would only encourage rich candidates to engage in electoral fraud.

Why not educate the voters instead, especially those living in rural and remote areas? As I observed in the last May 14 elections, there are still many Filipinos who do not know how to select the right candidates. They are still stuck in the traditional way of selecting candidates: whoever gives money will be the one they're going to vote for. In short, mostly, it is still "vote-buying" than determining their elected leaders.

There should be focus in every part of our country to discuss electoral improvement and how to stop them. The forums should be held a year prior to the elections...as next class. This would not be a difficult project to undertake, that is, if are Filipinos who really wants.

What our country needs is the raise awareness of how to stop "dirty" candidates would be afraid to make votes just one illegal act, all citizens must be aware and committed to what's happening in their communities. We should not be blinded by the sweet promises of candidates.

—ANATOLIE. SIDORIL
Ateneo Med., Ilaw Mena, Manila

Where now is the opposition?

THIS IS A REACTION TO COMBOdo de Quiros' column titled "Boy, you don't." (Inquirer, 7/2/07)

The resignation of power by our government is not only tolerated, it also in their favor. It is a way to keep power and genuine respect for human rights are basic tenets in a democracy. However, in a very subtle display of autocracy, the Commission on Elections has endorsed, by choice to allow the repeat of the scandalous 2004 elections. Looking this, the Comelec is in contempt of the will of the people. And that is repugnant to the highest form.

The people have already spoken and their collective disbelief is a clear rejection of the old ways of running our government. Through the ballot, the people are demanding changes. Their vote is their voice. Democracy says, the real reason is the absence of a leader in the opposition ranks. The government continues to do what it does because of a lack of an effective opposition. The tactics do not appear obvious. The tactic is to maintain in office changes. The results of the electoral elections are proof that the people want not only standing, they want also vitality taking down petty. Right now, it's not a matter of saying they are running for that opposition figure or energy.

Standing up against the Comelec presents an opportunity to assert the rights of the people. Sadly, Quadros, when has this opposition gone? Why is it coming up with this display of an opinion by the Comelec? Are we going to allow the same to happen? Inquirer, you say that the Filipino now is not worth dying for?

—MIGUEL HERNANDEZ
mrydyer2004@yahoo.com

Pag-Ibig cites bars to condonations

THIS IS IN REPLY TO THE LETTER "Old remedial of labor law now," written by Eduardo A. Duran of Victoria City Negros Occidental. (Inquirer, 6/27/07) Duran called attention to be laid of old-word the appeal of 329 housing loan borrowers for a condonation of the interest on their loans. The Pag-Ibig Fund was mentioned in one of the letters.

We would like to inform Duran, as well as other Pag-Ibig housing loan borrowers, that the Fund has a condonation program, under certain terms, known as the "Gawad Ginhawa." The aim to assist borrowers who are behind their loan payments so that their property will not be foreclosed or their Contracts to Sell (CTS) will not be cancelled. The program is open only to Fund members whose accounts were taken out by Pag-Ibig. The following delinquent borrowers do not qualify for the program:

1. Those who have rescheduled their housing loans;

2. Those with cancelled Contracts to Sell accounts under the Modified Loss (Ml) MISU;

3. Those whose accounts, covered by buy-back and buy-up guarantees, had become delinquent during the processing of buy-back/up deed.

We also wish to stress that the Fund does have an ongoing condonation program. However, this applies only to penalties incurred by delinquent accounts. It is against the law to condone the interest on housing loans.

Our records show that Duran is not among our Pag-Ibig housing loan borrowers. However, for the others in his group whose loans were taken out by the Fund, we invite them to visit our Bacolod Branch Office at the H.S. Montelibano Avenue, Singcang, Bacolod City, so our provincial personnel can evaluate their accounts and recommend appropriate courses of action. They may also call the Fund's Customer Relations Department manager at Tel. No. (02)403-1129 local 130 and 333, respectively.

For our members' information, effective June 1, 2007, the net contributing through the Gawad Pagtutulungan Program of the Fund has been increased to 2 percent and the interest rate prior to Nov. 11, 2006, have interest rates higher than 6 percent and who pay their accounts on or before June 30, 2007 (shorter, however, for those who have availed of the program before—one to six months as of June 3, 2007—are not themselves of the benefit, provided that they update their accounts up to P.5 million will be charged a 0.25 percent amortization.

—MARCEL A. FORTES
Vice president, Public affairs and Information Office, Home Development Mutual Fund, (Pag-Ibig Fund)

Renaming 'historical' streets illegal

I COULD NOT AGREE MORE WITH the article of Raissa Robles about the careless changing of street names, without any consideration for the city's history (Inquirer, 6/24/07)

How Colin Powell has just been retained.

Now Colin Powell has just been retained.

some taken out by the Fund, we invite them to visit our Bacolod Branch Office at the H.S. Montelibano Avenue, Singcang, Bacolod City, so our provincial personnel can evaluate their accounts and recommend appropriate courses of action. They may also call the Fund's Customer Relations Department manager at Tel. No. (034)435-1129 local 130 and 333, respectively.

For our members' information, effective June 1, 2007, the net contributing through the Gawad Pagtutulungan Program of the Fund has been increased to 2 percent and the interest rate prior to Nov. 11, 2006, have interest rates higher than 6 percent and who pay their accounts on or before June 30, 2007 (shorter, however, for those who have availed of the program before—one to six months as of June 3, 2007—are not themselves of the benefit, provided that they update their accounts up to P.5 million will be charged a 0.25 percent amortization.

—MARCEL A. FORTES
Vice president, Public affairs and Information Office, Home Development Mutual Fund, (Pag-Ibig Fund)

Renaming 'historical' streets illegal

I COULD NOT AGREE MORE WITH the article of Raissa Robles about the careless changing of street names, without any consideration for the city's history (Inquirer, 6/24/07)

How Colin Powell has just been retained.

If the National Historical Commission of the Philippines were consulted, would that make the change of name illegal?

—WASHINGTON BUHAIN
911 Bocobo Hall, cor. Padre and Evarista, Manila

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CEBU PACIFIC

TVI explains side on Canatuan mining row

RELATED TO THE ISSUE OF RIGHTS VIOlations allegedly committed against indigenous peoples, four days among them. Please allow me to clarify some facts.

1. Any and all the members of the tribe were never evicted from their ancestral domain. They were expelled by their community and voted out of leadership of the Bocos Subanon Association Inc. (BSAI), which is recognized by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples as the legal representative of the Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT) holders. Their leadership was rejected in part because of their reported alignment with what was believed by the community to be the evils of small-scale mining, which was continuing illegally in Canatuan from the early 1990s until the early 2000s.

2. Without consent. The only identifiable Subanons who reportedly consider it sacred are members of anti-mining organizations who indirectly benefited from the above-cited small-scale mining in that mountain but who, after their leadership was rejected by the majority of their community, began using the mountain's sacred status "as a rallying cry in its latest anti-mining drive."

3. TVI's presence in Canatuan has IP consent. As a partner of good faith, TVI insisted in its memorandum of understanding and, subsequently, a memorandum of agreement, with the BSAI that the tribe's consent be obtained despite the fact that TVI secured its Mineral Production Sharing Agreement with the Philippine government prior to the issuance of the DENR to the Subanons.

4. Since a non-Timuay tribal chief, doesn't manage and claim to a Timuay were challenged by many in the community because he did not come from the local community and he is not of the Subanon race.

Over the last several years, TVI has refuted these and many other allegations against the company in considerable detail, and those materials are available on the TVI website (www.tvipublicaffairs.com) (http://www.tvipublicaffairs.com/).

Finally, the Inquirer can also see the unfounding list of the company's accomplishments to help the Canatuan Subanons enjoy many of their human rights...including rights to development, health, education, employment, food, water and security, as well as sustainable development—in a timely way.

TVI's dialogue with the Subanons enjoys the strong support of the Subanons who have joined in the common effort to understand and overcome as a means of attaining economic and social progress. We are proud of what we have been able to accomplish in Canatuan. We are working hard to live up to our word so that he will be remembered and to make sure that real people who have benefited from these accomplishments.

—ROGER DERAC FLORES JR.
director, public affairs, TVI Resources Development (Philippines) Inc., 22/F Equitable PCI Bank Tower, 8741 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

Words without actions are nothing

THIS IS IN REACTION TO THE NEWS ITEM titled "Mags. I can't do defeat, but how about Bulacan?" (Inquirer, 6/20/07)

It is easy for one to say that he can take defeat, but can he really, he can?

Unfortunately, Mgs. Zubiri's utterances are not in sync with his actions. If Zubiri can really take defeat and is willing to be the true voice of the people, he should have left Rizal Pe Memorial Park against the clerics in the Comelec.

The irony is that Senator was in the winning circle of the Magic 12 when Zubiri made the statement. Today's win then at 11th place. What's it doing that is losing candidates are adding cry-wrenching statements to accept defeat?

If Zubiri sincerely meant that he could take defeat, then maybe he should do just that—concede and show the world that he did mean what he said. Otherwise, words without actions are just words—nothing more, nothing less.

—REYNALDO ESTRELLADO
10 Juno St., Congressional Village, Project 8, Quezon City

Competent lawyers also applying to become judges

THIS IS A REACTION TO THE NEWS ITEM regarding the "Global Corruption Report" of Transparency International. (Inquirer, 6/3/07) The report noted the relatively low pay for judges. Bias discrepancy compared to lawyers joining the judiciary despite the raises vs. salaries.

In this connection, it is instructive to point out that under Sec. 9, Article VIII of the Philippine Constitution, judges of lower courts shall be appointed by the President. I do not know if it involves political considerations. I agree that our judges are underpaid. I believe, however, that there are competent lawyers applying for the positions, despite the low pay.

Under Rule 3 of the same article, it is provided that the Supreme Court shall have the power to appoint all officials and employees of the judiciary in accordance with the Civil Service Law. The underscored by the judge is a major consideration. I should know. I have been a lawyer for almost seven years and a court legal researcher for almost 11 years.

—NOEL D. FLORES,
3161 Kamuning St., San Rafael Village, Signetan, Mandaluyong

If you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of your publication by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Inquirer, 5th Floor, Inquirer Media Center, corner Ayala and Makati Streets, City of Makati or send e-mail to info@inquirer.com.ph.

Be sure to have in the letter or e-mail your complete address and telephone or fax number for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Across the NATION

Senior Editor Tony Bergonia

Unpaid taxes for Baguio Marcos mansions pile up

BAGUIO CITY—Former First Lady Imelda Marcos may have been cleared of tax evasion charges, but she is still liable for unpaid taxes for seven Marcos mansions here that are now under government custody.

The mansions have been described as new in an "irreversible state of disrepair."

Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. said the city government wants to collect 20 years worth of taxes on four properties allegedly owned by the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos' widow, his son, Sharon Kwan, his daughter Josephine Cojuangco Rualo, Imee Marcos-Manotoc and the Marcos children's foundation.

THE LATE newspaper publisher Ham Moreno was supposedly the original owner of this small estate which he allegedly traded over to former First Daughter Imee Marcos. Of the five mansions which the government reportedly owned in 1986, this is the only property that opposers "Subic," Zambales and Bataan cannot claim. MARIANNE BERMUDEZ AND ERWIN LEMUEL

Not habitable

Another component that has been under sequestration belongs to the late newspaper publisher Hans Moreno.

Most of these houses are no longer habitable because of their state of decay, according to a security agency hired by the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) to maintain them.

The experts and real estate lawyers estimate that the properties could sell in the open market for at least P1.08 billion.

The seven Marcos mansions have been leased out Orchard Drive, a prime real estate corridor that bridges the presidential Mansion and the Burnham Park.

But only a portion of the property identified with Mrs. Marcos had been sold to a 2000 government auction.

Honorio Cachin Ampas, a broker, said many have been interested in hearing the prices of Marcos properties but "no one will take the risk because none of the Marcoses have been convicted."

Sorry state

Ampas said all of these mansions still be recorded as "his properties," even after governments perform their habitation in court because the Marcoses still have a stake in them.

"As president" is the annotation included on land titles to allow potential buyers that the property is the subject of pending cases.

Although the houses may be "in a sorry state," real estate industries and realtors there as sures, Ernesto Lorenzo, Edwin Fernandez, Mike Aguirre, Orlando Otney, Inquirer Mindanao

FIRST WIELDA Marcos during her speech at the Philippine business leaders forum in Makati City. JOEY LIM/REUTERS

TWELA Ground Baguio house was allegedly the favorite "quiet hideaway" of Marcos crony Eva Kong-kong Marcos. Suspected of by the government after 1986, it is now a public hazard in waterlogged, taking the roots to bigger ones which has below it.

2004 bombing suspect falls

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Government agents arrested in Tacurong City on Tuesday a suspect in the spate of attacks in Central Mindanao since 2004, including the market blast here that killed 15 people in December of that year and the April attack in Tacurong City that killed five people.

Supt. Teng Tacaca Tadtad Jr., the area police provincial director, said the team also intercepted bomb-making paraphernalia from the house of Jabir Abdul, alias Bello.

He declined to give additional information saying Abdul is still undergoing initial interrogation.

But Senior Supt. Alfredo Tavera-sosa, intelligence chief of the Central Mindanao police, said a tip led to the arrest of Abdul, a resident of Purok Hurry-it- Betsay-ay, Brgy. Tacurong City.

Tavera-sosa said Abdul, a 9th-year trained electronic technician, was arrested by virtue of a court order.

Supt. Eduardo Batoguis, deputy intelligence chief of the Central Mindanao police, said Abdul was once also a member of a tactical radio incident.

Batoguis said new evidences could have also wrested bomb-making lessons from technician experts Dulmatin and Omar Patek, who are also objects of a nationwide manhunt.

Batoguis said two witnesses have identified affidavits identifying Abdul as a suspect in the bombings. Quezon, Ernesto, Edwin Fernandez, Mike Aguirre, Orlando Otney, Inquirer Mindanao

Younger bishop to head war on 'jueteng'

BAGUIO CITY—ARCHBISHOP OSCAR CRUZ has named bishop Socrates Villegas of Balanga, Bataan, as his successor as chair of the ecumenical groups against "jueteng" and illegal gambling.

"It was difficult to find somebody who would take over because nobody wanted to take the hot seat. But I always have in mind Bishop Villegas and I will gladly turn over my seat to him when my retirement from the archbishop of Lingayen-Dagupan is accepted," Cruz told the bishops.

Cruz made both the Binnading Bayan Laban in Jueteng and Binnading Bayan Laban sa Sugal.

When Cruz offered the position to Villegas, the Bataan bishop didn't immediately accept it, asking 30 days for him to decide. "I told him, 'Wala akong maibuka [there are no takers]. I thought of you for a long time,'" he said.

Cruz has given Villegas marching orders on jueteng and illegal gambling and "to reorient them and be known about [the games] already."

He said he knew Villegas can lead the crusade groups because "he has measure of his own, he is not to grow out on night, he is credible and volunteered his talks, people listen."

"Villegas has been in Manila for a long time and people know him. He has connection with the people of power and authority. Pakisabi ninyo [my request to Villegas to talk with the officials]," he added.

Cruz, 75, has offered to retire and is waiting for its acceptance. He has been the archbishop of Lingayen-Dagupan for 15 years, where he launched the Binnading Bayan Laban sa Jueteng in 2000.

But he stressed that the groups will continue and even be more strengthened after he retire as head of the Lingayen-Dagupan archdiocese.

It was not an easy job, he said of the three-member tribunal. "Hindi kami tumatalo [we do not lose the fight]."

Cruz became a news celebrity of sorts when he was called to a Senate hearing after his exposés on powerful people receiving big amounts from jueteng operators.

But he received several death threats through phone calls and letters, along with offers of bribes for him to stop his crusade.

The Ermita gave Medalya ng Barangayan to government and police officials of barangays, cities and provinces which were reported to be free from the illegal numbers game.

But when Cruz considered as the biggest achievement of the Ermita is that it made many people conscious about the evils of jueteng and they have become "solutions" of being associated with it.

"The 10 months (go to, 19 and index) can maximally demonstrated jueteng," he added.

He also claimed that jueteng operators were no longer as extensive as before and that many towns, cities and provinces were freed from the illegal numbers game. Reinaldo Asuncion, Inquirer Northern Luzon

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INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY
OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR BUILDING ENGINEERING SYSTEMS AND EQUIPMENT
RP No.: 017397

1. The Asian Development Bank (ADB), a multilateral development finance institution having its head in Manila, Philippines, invites interested companies to apply for pre-qualification to bid for the Operations and Maintenance Services for Building Engineering Systems and Equipment at ADB Headquarters Building, located at No. 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Philippines.

2. The Contractor shall provide all the necessary supervision, management, tools and equipment, and consumable materials, (apart from those provided by ADB) handling transportation and other incidentals and services necessary to perform the services. The scope of services is provided in detail in the Work Performance Statement to be given to interested applicants.

3. Prequalification documents may be obtained from the Procurement and Contracting Unit, Institutional Services Department, Office of Administrative Services, Room 3036 (same as the above address), from 9:00 to 12:00 noon and 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., upon presentation of proof of payment in cash or manager's check of a non-refundable fee of Pesos: Three Hundred (₱300.00) at ADB's Cash Room, Room G2309.

4. Applicants will be required to submit two copies (marked "Original" and "Copy") of applications for pre-qualification sent in a sealed envelope, which must be addressed either by hand or by registered mail addressed to the attention of Ms. Rhea T. Procurement Specialist, Procurement Unit, Office of Administrative Services, Asian Development Bank, 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila, Philippines, not later than 4:00 P.M. of August 2007 and be clearly marked "Application to Pre-qualify for Operation and Maintenance Services for Building Engineering Systems and Equipment."

5. Only pre-qualified bidders shall be invited to participate in the bidding exercise to be conducted by ADB. All bidders will be notified of pre-qualified bidders from (5 September to 5 October 2007).

6. The invitation does not bind any commitment on the part of ADB, either financial or otherwise. Any cost of preparation of this pre-qualification documents shall be borne entirely by the applicant. ADB reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications for pre-qualification.

AMALIA S. WADAN
Principal Director
Office of Administrative Services

Asian Development Bank ADB

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
3/F Intramuros Administration Building
Gen. Luna cor. Gen. Solano St., Intramuros, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
SUPREME STEEL DETAILING SERVICES PHILIPPINES, INC.		
HO-1 ACTIVITY NETWORK SYSTEM (NAVIS), INC.		
KOREA JAED CORPORATION		
KOREA JAED CORPORATION		
GRANSA KOSA TEN BOOKS SHOP		
FORMAT ACADEMY, INC.		
FORMAT ACADEMY, INC.		
AMBROSIO SOLUTIONS PHILIPPINES, INC.		
TARAAN OVERSEAS MINING CO. PHILIPPINES, INC.		
GLOBAL MAIN APPAREL, INC.		
HONG SUNG SAMPUTRA HOUSE, INC.		
L-A LEARNING CENTER ALABANG INC.		
KITLAM PAINT TEXTILE TRADING CORP.		
KYO EXCELLENT TRAINING CENTER INC.		
K TECHNIMEX, INC.		
FIRST EL PRESIDENTE AGRIFACTURING, INC.		
MALAYSIAN-BTL TRADING CORP. SUN-HAE (MTCO)		
STARRY SKY CONSULTANCY CORPORATION		
ASIANA CORPORATION		
SHANGHAINESE NETWORKING SERVICES, INC.		
H & P FAMILY TRAVEL CORP.		
HOKKA BANKING NETWORKS PHILIPPINES, INC.		
LIFT LEARNING INC.		
HAPPY GREEN (MATECH INTERNATIONAL, INC.		
KUBOTA & SAEKEL, INC.		

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned applications please communicate with the Regional Director.

LOURDES M. TRANQUILADA
Regional Director

INQUIRER Southern Luzon
Editor Joe Bendayan
Bureau Chief Florante G. Solmerano

So much repair, so little funds

By Ephraim Aguilar
Legazpi City

"I HAVE BEEN THERE FOR seven months now—the Sto. Domingo town "Reming" refugees living in tents, and they don't leave unless they will finally be relieved from all the hassles of new life.

Said calls by local government officials for a speedy release of funds for disaster rehabilitation, President Macapagal-Arroyo on Tuesday ordered the fast implementation of programs that will provide permanent shelters to thousands of villagers displaced by typhoon Reming.

Newly appointed Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane, also the National Disaster Coordinating Council chief, said the government "has given enough resources and it's just a matter of implementing this to coordinators with the local government units."

DECRYPTIC Uncapping of chutes in June, hundreds of families displaced by Supertyphoon "Reming" condemn to stay in tents in Tagas Elementary School
MARIANNE BERMUDEZ

But for the past three months, the LGUs and agencies have not just been claiming delayed release of funds but have also remained the "deep in the hassles."

The government has released P30 billion under the Calamity Assistance Rehabilitation Effort (CARE) project of the government, to be divided among five agencies. As to how much more are expected to be released, no exact figures were given to the media.

DPWH regional director Orlando Perez earlier said that his office had received P1.5 billion, but it would not be enough to fund long-term projects for rehabilitation.

"The amount is too small if you look at the damage caused by the disaster. Only P776 million would be allotted for Albay out of the total budgets for all of the 5. So much of the bridges, flood control facilities, roads and other infrastructure projects like the repair of roads, bridges and some flood control facilities," Perez said.

The DPWH reported to have already completed almost 60 percent of the 268 infrastructure projects worth P1.5 billion and 228 projects for CARE projects amounting to P1.1 billion.

Albert Dalmeo, deputy area management officer of the National Housing Authority in Bicol, also said that the agency received the Special Presidential Release Order (SPRO) on June 1 for the P926 million intended for the 6,016 resettlement plots. The SPRO signals the start of the bidding process and other procurement of materials.

A total of P268 million was initially released to the NHA from the fund.

Site development

"We were expecting to receive the funds during May. Work because it would have been better to develop the relocation sites during summer and not during the rainy season," Perdeza, an engineer, said.

He added that the NHA also supposed to fast-track the development—including drainage systems, water and power supply systems, and road networks, but the delayed release of funds "paralyzed" the agency.

Due to the pressing need of relocation, temporary shelters—dubbed here as the Grand Bahay Pag-Asa Dangkalan of Duran, Hedcor for Humanity and many others, had to start building houses even if the relocation sites were not yet developed.

Perdeza said Albay had already 16 relocation sites with a total area of 96.36 hectares, which could accommodate 6,016 families undergoing.

Four more sites totalling 59.46 ha will be acquired, and their development will cost P336.35 million.

Site development would take three to four months to a computerized schedule and can to seven months in a normal schedule, Perdeza said.

The NHA still needed P926 million more to reactivate power to develop enough relocation area of 1,00 more ha, he said.

No date was announced as to when families living in unsafe and unsuitable dwellers would be transferred to new homes.

Arnulfo Elep, 52, who is staying at a camp in Barangay Bariday, said that each time a batch of newly built houses was being raffled in the Daughters of Charity, she could only smile. It would be his name that would be picked.

School also houses evacuees

By Jeanne T. Esmil
Legazpi City

IT IS A PRODUCT OF LESSONS learned from calamities.

Called the Lupac or Learning and Public Use School after its creators, Education Secretary Jesli Lapus, the building is touted as typhoon- and earthquake-resistant.

Its floors are raised by at least one meter from the ground to avoid flood, and its ceiling is rated to withstand 200 millimeters of rainfall.

The building could house up to 320 students at 32 families. It has showers and a kitchen.

On normal days, the Lupac serves as a classroom. During catastrophes, it is a sanctuary for people suffering from the effects of typhoons, volcanic eruptions and other calamities.

Secretary Lapus visited the Regional Evacuation Center in Legazpi City's Rawis village ago and saw it as a center for families whose homes were destroyed by Supertyphoon "Reming." The last time he visited the school, he said, it was flooded. Only one building was left standing to house the evacuees.

On Tuesday, Lapus led the ceremonies for the country's first Lupac building and relaunch the revised DepEd Education and Facilities Handbook.

"School buildings are also used as evacuation centers, so we might as well make sure that the buildings we can do evacuations are safe," he said.

He said the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) has offered to adopt the Lupac prototype and build 12 more in Bicol. This would complement the 124 buildings that the DepEd would be putting up.

With all the projects directed toward rebuilding Legazpi, Lapus said the setting of calamities that Bicol had endured has been could be considered blessings in disguise.

"Circumstances to build are here to destroy. Because of the calamities, there has been an outpouring of support from the government, nongovernment offices and even multinational companies," he said.

RESOLUTION NO. 8141

E-jeepney electrifies Makati folk

From page A1

transport on a more reliable scale.

And from yesterday's demonstration under the hot and steaming sun, city officials, environmentalists, business executives, and other enthusiasts had only one answer: Yes! They liked what they saw.

"Imagine the journey as a purely electric machine that hobbles walking, rushes on motor, has a high headroom, standard ride and seating and large windows," Isidro Electric Co. president Punch Packer said.

"You may even pass the bike crowd and enjoy sing-alongs or dance on your way to work," he added.

Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, who was among the first to drive the e-jeepney, also asked the experimenters "like taking a golf cart."

Push button gets it going

"It's very easy to ride. Because it's lighter, the jeepney moves when we so much as tap the heavy accelerator. It will need a little sense of limit, but it only takes a short while to get used to it," Packer said.

"You do not hear the engine running. It's very silent and there's always calm for you to check if it's on," Jessy Delgado, De Ocly's administrative and community relations department chief, said.

And how to start the vehicle? "You just push a button," Delgado said.

As the e-jeepney crossed the four-section of Ayala Avenue, pedestrians in the sidewalks stopped to watch these other past, make by photographers and cameramen.

Delivery could be older hours rolled down their windows to watch the course, whose route started from the corner of Paseo de Roxas and ended toward the G1 Park in front of the Makati Shangri-La Hotel, and back.

For Binay, the e-jeepney experiment the future of road travel in the financial capital.

Nationwide production

"We hope that soon our jeepneys the electric jeepneys to other cities nationwide," he said during a brief program after the test run.

"Electric-powered jeepneys are set to revolutionize the Philippines' most recognizable icon," Greenpeace campaign director Lea Hernandez said.

The e-jeepneys are a result of Green Renewable Environment Energy Producer Inc., which opening it into to experience and other projects, and Pedicos, which is now is a part of GREPP.

Alternative to pollution

The campaign is part of LAMP's Climate Friendly Cities Project, a multi-pronged program for mitigating climate change that promotes transport and waste management initiatives through renewable energy-based technology.

"The e-jeepney aims to demonstrate that there are clean-friendly alternatives to the current polluting modes of public transportation in the Philippines," said Alfonso Rapallo, GREPP chair and lead proponent of the e-jeepney initiative.

"The recent increase in petroleum and coal prices and the ever-mounting diesel and vehicle pricing environmental pressures to the vehicles' drivers," she added.

Celebrities like Amanda Griffin, Ashleh Bocic, Richard Gutierrez and Georgina Wilson, who will support Greenpeace, also praised the effort.

"Considering it has no gas tank (for a battery), no emissions, (the e-jeepney) runs purely on clean electricity, resulting in a much quieter and healthier trip," Packer said.

"Even powered jeepneys actually waste more fuel while idling. In the case of the e-jeepney, when the driver stops, on the brake, the engine really stops. It doesn't idle," he said.

Long-term prospects

The battery that makes the e-jeepney run has a two-year warranty.

The e-jeepney can run 120 km on a single charge of eight hours, Packer said.

"If the driver travels it on non-stop speed of 40 kph in one day, that would mean to a three-hour working day, but the recipe can extend his hours because the battery is not used up," Packer said.

Binay said the city government and the commuter-based Bayan calls to support fund projects with major stakeholders, particularly leaders of jeepney drivers' associations, about the long-term prospects of the project.

"We have an intention of phasing out unfriendly vehicles in our streets," Binay said.

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TRAFFIC-STOPPING SIT: Earth-friendly e-jeepneybreeds out on Ayala Avenue on Wednesday. It means clean of the use of fossil fuels and emissions air pollution and solid wastes. GLADYS BOCOBO

Live Earth concert aims to change world

From page A1

knowledge about the crisis and its solutions so they make that count their votes," Gore said at an interview with The Associated Press. "Now, you will see the massive political action club dramatically."

Kelly, an Emmy-winning concert producer who produced Live 8 and founded Live Earth, hopes Live Earth will change attitudes about global warming.

"The concert is not the solution," Kelly said. "The concert is providing, hopefully, that global tipping point to start to get us to empowering people, get them into the act."

Live Earth will simultaneously in the Alliance for Climate Protection, a nonprofit organization founded by Gore. Tickets for the US concert range from $65 (nearly P3,000) to $3,000 (P138,000). Web was originally inspired to put on Live Earth's short video "An Inconvenient Truth," the Academy Award-winning documentary on Gore's global-warming slide show.

"The question I last asking myself is, 'What can I do?'" Kelly said.

6,000 parties

Concerts are scheduled for East Rutherford, New Jersey; London; Johannesburg, South Africa; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Shanghai, China; Sydney, Australia; Hamburg, Germany; Istanbul, Turkey; and Kamberg, Germany. Aland of stars, some also will perform in more than one location, including Madonna, the Police, the Red Hot Chili Peppers and Alicia Keys. Kelly chose Bon Jovi and Metallica, both chart-topping rock acts that have been popular with a wide range of ages.

More than 150 artists will perform, including Madonna, the Police, the Red Hot Chili Peppers and Alicia Keys. Kelly chose Bon Jovi and Metallica, both chart-topping rock acts that have been popular with a wide range of ages.

Also planned are more than 6,000 parties in 126 countries—ranging from house parties to an outdoor festival in Antarctica. The seven cities will be broadcast in the United States on MTV, Telemundo, the Sundance Channel, Bravo, MSNBC and Universal HD. They will also be broadcast online on LiveEarth.MSN.com and on SM outdoor sites.

Live Earth has been organized mindful of lessons learned from Live 8, which was planned just weeks in advance by Bob Geldof to rally support for Africa. Bars, stores and restaurants were closed in response to 1980's Live Aid (which benefited famine victims in Ethiopia). Live 8 did not change its policies and generally kept to a vague message urging help for Africa.

The underlying point of Live 8 was to pressure world leaders who didn't live up to their vows to cancel the heavily burdened loans nations could be drained. The G8 nations committed to increasing aid to African from $25 billion annually to $50 billion (rose$50.8 billion) by 2010. The leaders also endorsed a deal to cancel the debt of 10 of the world's poorest nations.

Since then, Geldof has created the website www.dubdubdub.com.org to audit how nationals the G8 nations keep to their promises.

Advice from pioneers

Though Alter has now largely ceded ground to global warming as the dominant cause celebre, many of those involved with Live 8 still greet Gore, US front man and outspoken advocate of aid for Africa, recently gave related on to.

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Advice from pioneers

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CLOSE: Going to be the greatest event of its kind, ever.

ear of Gore's Live devoted to stop's.

On the largely dramatic Live 8 website, Bono is quoted: "Live 8 was real concert a brilliant movement but what is more important is the brilliant movement of which it is to make."

This time around, Gore says there are nothing political or efforts to convince any movement has joined by Live Earth.

"We've listened to the advice of Bob Geldof and others who have been really great and helpful, and we've taken their advice in bringing this event as not the end as it is still, but the beginning of a climate crisis campaign," Gore said.

But Geldof, there is critical of Live Earth. In blog, he said a Dutch newspaper: "Live Earth doesn't have a final goal."

7 Point Pledge

"I would only organize this if I could go on stage and announce concrete environmental measures from the American presidential candidates, Congress or major corporations," Geldof said.

But Gore is undeterred. Live week, Gore said "We'll suggest can some of their goals for Live Earth. They unveiled a "7 Point Pledge" that concert-goers will be asked to sign. Those who signed promises to pressure their country to sign treaties to cut global warming pollutants, personally reduce carbon-dioxide emissions, avoid plastic bags, among other things.

Part of the dream of Live Earth is to consciousness about consumers can do to stimulate their impact on the environment.

"The problem really is, in fact it's a very complicated issue," Kelly said. "When you think about yourself as riding a piece of paper, how does that connect to anything in the North Pole?"

Green integrity

Kelly and Gore have also taken measures to maximize the concert's green integrity by enlisting the support of Leonardo "Green Building Consultant and John Picarro, a former member of President Bill Clinton's Green White House task force. Live Earth is intended to be an ecofriendly event with power supplied from renewable energy sources and transported around from hybrid or high-efficiency vehicles to the possible.

"This is going to be the greenest event of its kind, ever," Gore said. "The carbon offsets and the incentives we've put in place will be used to make this a green event, I think will set the standard for years to come."

While the former vice president has repeatedly said he would not run for presidential race he said he would "do my part" in Live Earth to raise climate-change awareness just before in the election next November and beyond.

"We're prepared to carry this on for three to five years," Gore said. "I'm optimistic that we'll reach the goal before then." AP

RP ranks 17th among 191 nations in UN's survey on e-governance

From page A1

The IPA said a panel at the 7th Global Forum on International Government Innovation (GFII) in Vienna on June 28 cited the partnership between the Philippine government and the private sector to encourage public participation through the Bantay-Ospa and Bantay-Korapsyon programs as a model of how technology can be enabling citizens to actively take part in governance.

It said this affirmed the "UN Global E-Government Readiness Report 2005" as a good measure to "decipher" what caused the Philippines as one of the 20 countries employing technology as "governmental" tools to the fullest. The report was published by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs in 2006.

In the UN E-Government Survey, the Philippines rated with America for 17th place among 191 countries using a web-measure index that assessed the quality of government websites and the level of utilization of information and communications technology (ICT) tools to government, or how to provide information or available Internet-based interactive and transactional services.

At the top of the survey were the United States, United Kingdom, Singapore, Republic of Korea and Denmark.

E-government readiness

The Philippines also ranked fourth in e-government readiness among countries in Asia, next only to Singapore, Republic of Korea and Japan.

In the printed survey of e-government readiness, the Philippines ranked 41st among 179 countries.

The UN defines e-readiness as a national government's capacity and willingness to use e-government for ICT-led development.

In the context of the survey, e-readiness refers to the government of Philippine government organizations as well as the private sector, they are willing to make in order to engage in e-government.

The same UN survey also said the Philippines' integrated portal www.gov.ph was "the 1,000 with the best of the world."

E-participation index

The survey said the portal was one of the few national sites in the world offering a one-stop-access alternative for users, either through Short Message Service, Wireless Application Protocol (WAP), or a Pocket PC version.

The Philippines was ranked 19th in e-participation index, among countries providing "access and opportunity to the citizens through the development of participatory initiatives via ICT."

The report assessed the existence and usefulness of the e-participation features of government websites worldwide, and how well they were being deployed for "promoting participatory decision-making."

The top 10 countries, according to that index, were the UK, US, Singapore, Canada, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Denmark, Slovenia, Australia and the Netherlands.

The UN survey stressed the need by the Philippines to continue to further improve the level of telecommunications infrastructure to fully implement e-government, the UN said.

Room for improvement

Local experts said improving telecoms infrastructure and efforts to promote connectivity had somewhat boosted Philippine's online services.

But they also said there was a lot of room for improvement.

Raymond Peter Venida, Association of the Philippines CEO Outsider Inside coached the country's top three telcos—Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., Globe Telecommunications Inc. and wireless unit Innove and Bayan Telecommunications (Bayan) for improving the telecom and Internet infrastructure.

"On the commercial side, affordable broadband Internet was really crucial to our e-readiness because it enabled such things as Internet literacy, IT-enabled business, and offshoring," Venida said.

"On the industry side, demand for online consumer services, primarily pushed by e-commerce firms, made it cheaper and more available for everyone. On the government's side, there is some infrastructure and structure of that, but we need more in order to improve," he said, adding:

"If we want to have more quality applications that can serve our growing IT needs, we need to increase PC penetration in high schools and elementary schools, and we need to educate our students on the use of the Internet."

Good prospects

Separately, executives of local telcos said the Philippines had good prospects for improved ICT infrastructure and capacity.

PLDT Corporate Business Group head Eric G. Alfonso and Innove CEO Gil Genio said at the recent Cebu ICT 2007 conference that two new undersea cable links would be completed early in 2008.

"When the additional network cut in place, the aggregate capacity of international bandwidth services will be five times the current size," Genio said.

Globe is spending P6 billion for the three-thirds cable system that will link has already to the United States. PLDT is investing $100 million in a separate system.

Alfonso also said the Philippines was increasingly becoming an alternative ICT hub for call

Late SPORTS

More Sports stories on A21 to 24

JONES CUP

Another heartbreaker for RP 5

Japan pounces on Nationals' meltdown, scores down-the-wire victory

By Ernesto A. Gonzales

TAIPEI—LIGHTNING STRUCK THE Smart Gilas Philippines national quintet a second time late nights in the 29th William Jones Cup international basketball tournament here.

A day after losing to Lebanon on a buzzer-beating shot, the Nationals suffered another meltdown in an 86-84 loss to archrival Japan Wednesday.

A fastbreak layup by Yasuhiro Hanaki with seconds left following a Japan interception of a Dondon Hontiveros pass doomed the Filipinos, who led by 13 points twice, the last at 69-56 late in the third quarter.

"Disastrous. They still got control," said national coach Chot Reyes. "I don't know why we can't execute and close out the game."

"We played very well in the first 30 minutes. Unfortunately, this is a 40-minute game. It's too bad because I should be able to get good shots for my players."

Predictably, it was a frustrated effort by Hontiveros on the shooting end as he finished with a meager 4-of-14 clip.

Against Lebanon, Dondon raised to go for a wide-open shot early instead of calmly using on the inside scorer more.

After he missed, Lebanon came up with a desperation three-pointer from Boy Island on the buzzer to win, 85-82.

Inspired by their great escape, the Lebanese seized the early solo lead by thumping Kazakhstan, 89-77, for their third straight victory.

Qatar somehow stood 10% weary about the strength of Iran by nipping the 2006 Asiad finalists Iranians outclassed, 74-72.

The Iranians, hindered with the 10-point loss in the fifth-day championship along with Jordan and defending champion China, absorbed a second loss in seven games.

Iran also at 1-2 pin Qatar, the Philippines, Japan and Kazakhstan.

"Our unexpected 8:59 collapse ruined a sizzling offensive show-off for Gerald Ivy Ben Rondo.

Rondo, benched in 10% opening win against the US and rested against Lebanon, finished with seven triples for 21 points to help ROJ assume further 1-2 point lead at 43-31.

Then a 26-2 run capped by Cuba Hontiveros triple restored the margin at 69-56 in the third period, but the Japanese just wouldn't go away.

Shohei Akbashi, a sculpture shooting specialist all scorers with 25 points, scored a drive then added a three-pointer as Japan dealt a 84-84 stalemate with 4:46 left.

After an ill'ntercon, Hontiveros missed the three-in-two the Iranian defense anticipated his pass to Ali Vakilifathabi and then struck with clear winning basket.

The Japanese saved only six more and fielded another run only when Yuuki Machida found one, Hanaki, on the other hand, netted Mike Penrick, saying he found no need for him in the match.

The Filipinos, who are vying this event as a buildup for the 15th Asia championship, next play the Iranians at 5:30 p.m. Thursday.

QADE Norwood attempts a basket while teammate Erik Menk (second from left) positions for a possible rebound in the game against Lebanon, which the Filipinos also lost in the dying seconds of the game.

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3 killed in Quezon City condo fire

By Jeannette I. Andrade

THREE PERSONS WERE KILLED BEFORE dawn yesterday in a fire that gutted one of the units in a six-story condominium in Cubao, Quezon City.

Firefighters have found the bodies of used clothing trader Ray John Dungala, 23; his employee Irene Filliren, 21 and Kevin Duque, 20, when they entered Unit 204 of the Minnesota Mansion at 2017 Ermin Garcia Street, Barangay Silangan.

Dungala's wife, Pamela, and their seven-month-old child survived the blaze as firemen from the Cubao Fire Station were able to put out the fire before it could reach the master's bedroom where the two were sleeping. They were rescued by smoke inhalation problems but have been released out of danger.

Chief Insp. Oscar Villegas, Quezon City fire marshal, said the two-alarm fire that began in the living room at around 2 a.m. where two of the bodies were found. Filliren's body was found by the door while Dungala was found on a chair. Firemen found Duque inside the guest room.

Villegas said that there was a possibility that the blaze, which was put out at 3:30 p.m., was caused by an appliance that had short-circuited. He added that they have yet to identify which of the appliances had caused the fire.

Villegas also said that he was surprised when reports that the sprinkler system of the condominium, located in the hallways, was not working.

PO2 Joseph Dino of the Quezon City Police District Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit, who is conducting a parallel probe of the incident, said that Dungala told him that there was an electric fan and a cellular phone charger owned by Filliren that were no longer working.

Pamela added that she woke up after she heard her husband's pleas for help coming from the living room. But she was unable to help him because when she opened the door, it was too dark because the lights had gone out and the room was filled with thick smoke. She added that she decided to lock herself with her child inside the toilet of their bedroom until they were rescued by firefighters.

Investigators said the unit that burned down was registered to Willy Dingle of Baguio City while the Minnesota Mansion is owned by Wilson Gerardo.

It will be recalled that the Mansion fire in Eastern Grove in the city which was gutted by fire in August 2001, leaving 74 people dead, was owned by a William Gerardo Villegas, however, said that he did not know if the two were related.

City Engineer Aurelio Calimquim said that initial investigation showed that the owner of the condominium did not have a fire inspection certificate for his building, a prerequisite before an occupancy permit is granted.

ONE of three bodies discovered in the Minnesota Mansion in Cubao, Quezon City, after an early morning fire yesterday. MARY CAMUS

LTO official faces dismissal from service

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN YESterday ordered the dismissal from government service of the Land Transportation Office chief in Parañaque City for making the issuance of an insurance agency her "milking cow."

Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo ordered the order after the board Fernando finally guilty of soliciting a commission for every vehicle registered in her office from an insurance firm.

Under the law, owners of vehicles to be registered with the LTO should first present a certificate of insurance coverage for compulsory third party liability.

Director Diane Antoche, branch manager of Solid Surety Insurance and Reinsurance Brokers Inc., earlier accused Estrella of ordering the agency's insurance accountant to remit P50 to her (Estrella's) office for every client they were able to insure.

In her sworn statement filed in the complaint court, Antoche said the LTO official also demanded that 20 percent of the insurance payment go to the "moral fund" or those who took the driving and transit members of each vehicle up for registration at her office.

One of the investigators assigned, Mary Jane Mercado said in her affidavit that when they refused to give in to Estrella's order sometime in July 2000, they were harassed by the moral boys, who were non-LTO employees.

According to her, the moral boys investigated potential clients and brought them to an office where agency whose owners complied with Estrella's demands.

Although the LTO official denied the allegations against her, the Ombudsman found her "bare" denial unconvincing.

"Estrella's act of turning the complainant into a milking cow is despicable — a blatant circumvention of the law ... Indeed, the respondent had conducted herself in an unlawful manner so unbecoming of a public servant," said Gutierrez, who also ordered the filing of graft charges against the accused.

DID YOU KNOW

THE BANGKO Sentrong Pilipinas was established on July 3, 1993 by virtue of the New Central Bank Act of 1993. It replaced the Central Bank of the Philippines as the country's central monetary authority. The 1993 law gave the BSP fiscal and administrative autonomy from the national government.

Among the objectives of BSP are to maintain price stability conducive to balanced economic growth. It also has the exclusive power to issue the national currency. Its central office is in Manila. Manila.

Cyrill C. Almodovar, Inquirer Research

METROBRIEFS

Labor employee falls to death

AN EMPLOYEE of the Department of Labor and Employment died after he fell from the fifth floor of a building in Intramuros, Manila yesterday afternoon. Police authorities identified the victim as Agerico Wilson Tamayo, 27, administrative assistant III of the Bureau of Labor Relations and a resident of Parañaque City. The victim suffered multiple injuries, according to police. Investigation showed that the accidental happened at around 3 p.m. when Tamayo, who was in the Commission on Labor and Employment Central Office, fell from the fifth floor of the building. Manila Police District homicide division chief, Supt. Rodolfo Magtibay, said that prior to the incident, the victim's office supervisor, Atty. Lourdes Fernandez, had asked the victim to submit a report. Tamayo was supposed to submit the report to Fernandez but he went up to the eighth floor, police said. Tampering said the victim had vertigo on the back, which could be a sign that he initially planned to commit suicide by hanging himself. "We can't say for sure if it was the case. We suspect he tried to tie it to a loose bar but the cord broke and so he fell," Tampering added. It is unclear if the victim, who requested anonymity, claimed that Tamayo once admitted to her that he was suffering from depression. Police said that this would constitute further investigation to determine if there was foul play.

Tina C. Santos

J. Fernandez burial on July 7

THE FORMER JUSTICE secretary Jesus Fernandez, who died on May 29 from multiple organ failure resulting from lung cancer, will be interred on July 7 at The Columbary, St. Agustin Seminary Compound on Gen. Aguinaldo Avenue, Quezon City after the funeral ceremony at 9 a.m. He was cremated on May 31. The date of the interment is not incidental — it marks the anniversary of the founding of the Katipunan in 1892. Mrs. Fernandez, Fernandez's widow, said that her husband had a high regard for the Katipunan. Fernandez was a political activist for more than 30 years and was known for his stance in EDSA, Sumilao, Nos. Lan and Subic, among others. When he joined the mainstream, Fernandez continued to work for various things as political adviser to then President Cory Aquino. Before he died, Fernandez was the chairman emeritus of the Legal Education Board. Fernandez was also urged the late actor Fernando Poe Jr. to run for president in 2004. Surviving Fernandez are his children Jesus Jr., Ramon Paolo, Ramon Jr., Ma. Victoria, Ma. Luz and Irene

Rail strikes spread in Germany

BERLIN—GERMAN RAIL WORKers extended strikes over pay on Tuesday, causing what operator Deutsche Bahn described as massive disruptions for millions of morning commuters, and unions vowed more action on Wednesday.

The GDL union representing train drivers joined protests by two other unions that started on Monday, halting passenger and freight traffic in a rare stoppage for Germany's coal network.

The strikes hit the capital Berlin and Hamburg, Germany's second-largest city, and lasted four hours in most affected places. Local rail lines were worst hit but there were also delays on inter-city and international rail traffic.

Roads leading into Berlin were jammed with cars, and bike lanes through Germany's biggest city were clogged with cyclists.

The GDL said it would not restrict any further strikes until Thursday but the Transnet and GDBA unions said they would stage action on Wednesday to places including the western state of Hesse, the northern city of Bremen and in the Halle area.

The strikes would affect both passenger and goods traffic, the unions said.

"We are ready for talks that serve to prevent any further escalation of the wage conflict," Transnet chief Norbert Hansen said in a statement.

Deutsche Bahn said it did not expect Wednesday's planned action to create significant disruption.

Talks planned for Thursday between top unions and Bahn and finance bosses had been brought forward to Wednesday, a Transnet spokesperson said. Reuters

VANISHING LAKE

A photograph taken by the Chilean Navy shows an unnamed lake in southern Chile that suddenly drained a few weeks ago but is now beginning to fill up again. A scientific team discovered that the lake had unaccountably disappeared, believed to have drained towards the Pacific Ocean where a fresh quake in mid-June set containing walls, but it began to fill up again as rescue vehicles and the glaciers' edges froze from cold. AFP/FILE

Bush may pardon Libby

WASHINGTON—PRESIDENT GEORGE W. Bush softened its calls not a pardon for former White House aide Lewis "Scooter" Libby on Tuesday a day after sparing him from prison in a case that helped seal Bush's Iraq legacy and gave ammunition to Democrats.

Bush, who angered Democrats but reassured conservatives by sparing Libby from serving a two years said a full presidential statement, told reporters who asked about an eventual full pardon: "As to the future I will say nothing in and nothing out." Bush's commutation of Libby's prison sentence—while leaving intact a $250,000 fine and two-year probation—was news in Washington as an act of loyalty by an unpopular president trying to regain ties with disaffected conservatives who had pressed him to keep Libby out of jail.

There were comparisons to pardons issued by his father, President George H.W. Bush, in 1992 to key figures in the Iran-contra scandal—former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger and State Department official Elliott Abrams.

The decision was also likened to President Bill Clinton's 11th-hour pardon in Jan. 2001 of financier Marc Rich from tax-evasion charges.

Libby was saved from a jail sentence for his conviction in March on charges of lying and obstruction of justice in an investigation into who leaked the identity of a CIA officer, Valerie Plame. Plame's husband, former ambassador Joe Wilson, questioned evidence used to justify the Iraq war.

"It closes one chapter of the sort of life-draining issue of George W. Bush and Iraq," said presidential historian Stephen Hess. "It's totally in keeping with everything he's done up to now, including his sense of loyalty to his people." Reuters

US, Russia begin nuke talks

Strategic weapons accord to expire in '09

WASHINGTON—THE UNITED States and Russia on Tuesday pushed the powerful nuclear rivals to agree and said they had begun talks to trim their nuclear warrants "to the lowest possible level" ahead of the expiry of a landmark strategic-weapons agreement.

The Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), which led to the reduction and limitation of strategic offensive weapons under the largest arms control accord in history expires in 2009.

"The United States and Russia reiterate their intention to carry out strategic offensive reductions to the lowest possible level consistent with their national security requirements and alliance commitments," US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said her Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov said in a joint statement issued in Washington on Tuesday.

"To the end, ministers discussed development of a post-START arrangement to provide continuity and predictability regarding strategic offensive forces," they said, a day after US President George W. Bush and Russian leader Vladimir Putin held summit talks.

Rice and Lavrov had met on the sidelines of the summit at the US leader's parents' vacation home in Kennebunkport, Maine.

On the last day of their four-hour, Rice and Lavrov said Moscow and Washington would continue these discussions "with a view to reaching early results" on the reduction of their nuclear arsenals.

Bush and Putin in May 2002 signed the Treaty on Strategic Offensive Reductions, limiting the two powers to a strategic nuclear arsenal of 1,700 to 2,200 operationally deployed warheads each. It expires in 2012.

There are no immediate targets that have been set under the nuclear talks for any new agreement replacing START, officials said. AFP

Scientist tests DNA on hubby's underwear for signs of cheating

LANSING—A MICHIGAN FORENSICS scientist who used the tested DNA in her husband's underwear to find out whether he was cheating could be disciplined if investigators determine she violated the use of state equipment.

But Chamberlain-Gordon testified in a March 7 divorce hearing that she ran the test in September on the underwear of Charles Gordon Jr. asked by his attorney what she found, she answered: "Another female. It wasn't me."

She also said during a May 23 hearing in Ingham County Family Court that she ran the test on her own time with chemicals that were set to be thrown away.

Michigan State Police, which oversees the Lansing forensics lab where Chamberlain-Gordon works, wanted to investigate her after her husband's attorney warned authorities and media outlets questioning whether state time and resources have been improperly used.

Investigators expect to decide by next week what they found. But Judge have not been restricted during the investigation, state police spokesperson Shanon Banda said on Tuesday.

"We don't know exactly what was or wasn't done," Akers said.

State police policies on the care and use of property say "department supplies, materials or equipment shall not be used for any non-duty or non-department purpose."

A request for comment was left on Tuesday with Chamberlain-Gordon.

Charles Gordon's attorney, Michael Maddalosi, said on Tuesday that his client disputed his wife's testimony that she acknowledged a sexual encounter with another woman after she found the female DNA on his underwear. AP

Napoleon letter to Josephine fetches $7.7M

LONDON—ONE OF THE WORLD'S greatest collections of historical letters, including an apologetic note written by Napoleon to his love Josephine after a row, fetched 3.8 million pounds ($7.7 million) at auction on Tuesday.

The treasure trove of almost 1,000 documents, collected over 20 years by American banker, included letters written by Winston Churchill, Peter the Great, Alexander Dumas, John Donne and Queen Elizabeth I.

The auction proceeds almost doubled pre-sale expectations.

One of the most and most touching items in the collection was a passionate love letter by an apologetic Napoleon to his wife to be, Josephine de Beauharnais, the morning after a furious argument.

The letter sold for 276,000 pounds, a record for a Napoleon letter and more than five times its pre-sale estimate of 30,000 to 50,000 pounds, auctioneers Christie's said.

"I send you three kisses...one on your heart, one on your mouth and one on your eyes," wrote the shattered lover in a spidery scrawl full of contentious and cavalier out.

Napoleon was believed to have provoked the quarrel by inquiring about Josephine's wealth held in family estates in the West Indies.

The letters covered more than 500 years and ranged across art, science, literature and philosophy.

"To get a collection of letters like this nowadays is really a one off, it's almost unheard of," Thomas Venning, director in Christie's books department, told Reuters.

Dennis Allen Jobson, who died in 2005, had begun amassing the archive in the early 1970s.

Though an inveterate collector, Jobson was not interested in conservation or display—the letters were kept in an old metal cabinet in the laundry room of his villa in Lausanne, Switzerland, ordered by date rather than author or date.

A manuscript in which English scientist Sir Isaac Newton discusses the theory of gravity and the structure of the universe, sold for 204,000 pounds compared with a pre-sale estimate of 30,000 to 50,000 pounds.

Another prized lot, a note by metaphysical poet John Donne to Lady Kingsmill a day after the death of her husband in October 1624, sold for 114,000 pounds, within the range estimated before the sale. Reuters

Potter-mania hits London as film debuts

LONDON—POTTER-MANIA descended on London's Leicester Square on Tuesday for the world premiere of the boy wizard's latest film adventure, "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix."

Hundreds of fans, many of them from overseas, camped out early despite torrential rain to see author Joanne "J.K." Rowling and the star-studded cast of the film, packed into the square ahead of the evening red-carpet screening.

Fans the moment was one to see as Daniel Radcliffe, the 17-year-old actor who plays Harry turned up with his co-stars Emma Watson (Hermione Granger) and Rupert Grint (Ron Weasley).

Radcliffe admitted that the new movie is darker than previous ones.

"Toward the end of the film ... there's not many laughs to be had," he admitted, while insisting that there were some lighter moments.

"While there's not actually direct comedy, there's some really heartfelt emotion. "There's goodness in it," he said.

Watson, who like Radcliffe and Grint has become a global star—and likely a multi-millionaire—through the Potter brand, admitted she still gets excited at red-carpet screenings.

"Every time I come to a premiere, I see more and more fans. It gets bigger and bigger," the 17-year-old said, while adding of her character: "She's kind of changing, becoming more of a rebel. But it's kind of fun to play." In his fifth film outing, Potter experiences his first kiss with classmate Cho Chang, though his naughty is questioned when some of its censored version. question his rule of confrontation with the evil Lord Voldemort.

Radcliffe described the movie as the film he is most proud of, while Watson reckons it is the "most serious" of the series. AFP

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Casino

BBC JOURNALIST Alan Johnston smiles following his release after nearly four months in captivity. AFP

British journalist released

GAZA CITY—BBC JOURNALIST Alan Johnston was freed in Gaza on Wednesday after 16 weeks held hostage by Palestinian extremists, looking pale and drawn but delighted that his "terrifying" ordeal was over.

The Briton, 44, by far the longest held Westerner in the embattled and impoverished Gaza Strip, stepped into the outside world before daybreak chatted by Fatmas officials and surrounded by men wearing gun belts on.

"It's just the most fantastic thing to be free," he told BBC television by telephone from the home of ousted Fatmas Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh in the Shati refugee camp in Gaza City where he was taken after his release.

"I am hugely grateful to all the people, an amazing number of people, that worked on the Palestinian side, the British government, the BBC from top to bottom, and the huge amount of support from BBC listeners."

In a televised news conference with Fatmas leaders, Johnston spoke of his harrowing ordeal in solitary confinement, where he was threatened with death, but thanked the Islamist movement, which seized control of the Gaza Strip in an armed takeover last month, for securing his release.

"They walked about talking to me and urinating me," he told reporters after arriving into Israel. "They handcuffed me and put a hood and took me out to the middle of the night."

Wearing blue jeans, a blue shirt and a navy jacket, he appeared relaxed, and smiled and joked for the cameras, although his face was pale and he appeared to have lost considerable weight while being held by the extremist group The Army of Islam. AFP

Britain braces for anniversary of July 7 blasts

Security tightened across country

LONDON—A SENIOR BRITISH DETECTIVE headed for Australia on Wednesday to question one of eight suspects held over failed bombings in London and Glasgow as Britain remained on maximum alert for a new al-Qaida attack.

A series of alerts have overcome authorities since the attempted bombings on Britain hours for the anniversary of the July 7, 2005 suicide attacks in London which killed 52.

All suspects so far detained are doctors or medical staff with Middle Eastern links.

Responding to British press reports, several of the suspects were already on the files of domestic intelligence agency MI5 as "people who know people" that were under observation.

"It appears that there are some linkages which refer to some of the individuals that have been detained," one source said, adding that this had helped "speed up some of the investigations."

At least six of the suspects are believed to be doctors, including a Jordanian neurosurgeon and an Iraqi doctor, with one being held in Australia after attempting to leave the country.

A British counterterrorism officer was set to arrive in Australia on Thursday to interrogate Mohammed Haneef, a 27-year-old Indian doctor who was arrested at Brisbane international airport on Monday.

It was not immediately clear if Britain would seek his extradition.

Australia's Federal Police Commissioner Mick Keelty said the next seven days would become clearer within 48 hours.

Asked if a decision on whether Haneef would face charges, he fixed or be extradited to Britain would be made soon, Keelty replied: "By the end of the week, I think, is the timeframe that we would give."

Security has been tightened across Britain since two Mercedes cars packed with gas canisters and nails were found in London's entertainment district on Friday.

The following day a blazing Jeep Cherokee rammed into the front doors of Glasgow airport's main terminal, and hours later the national security level was raised to "critical," meaning another attack is expected "imminently." Police say the two attacks were linked and on Wednesday experts emerged that the two men who carried out the Glasgow attack may have been the drivers who abandoned the cars in London.

The four arrests in the investigation were made on Saturday after police apprehended the two men driving the Jeep into Glasgow, one of whom remains in critical condition in hospital. AFP

Evidence suggests terror suspects hatched plot in Britain

LONDON—THEY HAD DIVERSE backgrounds, coming from countries around the globe, but all shared youth and worked in medicine. They also had connections to Britain's National Health Service, some worked together as colleagues or hospitals in England and Scotland, and experts and officials say the evidence points to the plot by eight medics they met each other in the UK, rather than overseas.

"You think that these guys were a sleeper cell and somehow were able to plan this operation from the different places they were, and then somehow come to the UK, then get jobs in the same area—I think that's a pleasing impossibility," said Bob Ayres, a former UK intelligence officer now at London's international School Bath rank, Durham House.

"A much more likely scenario is they were here together, they discovered that they shared some common ideology, and then they decided to act on this while here in the UK," he said.

No one has been charged in the plot in which two car bombs failed to explode in central London early Friday and in which one man rammed a jeep Cherokee loaded with gas cylinders into the entrance of Glasgow International Airport and set it on fire Saturday. AP

A GRAY-SHANK EDOUC is seen at the Primate Rescue Center in Cuc Phuong National Park, 120 km south of Hanoi, in an undated photo provided by the World Wildlife Fund office in Hanoi. AFP/File

Endangered monkeys found in Vietnam

HANOI—A LARGE POPULation of gray-shanked douc monkeys has been found in central Vietnam, raising hopes that the endangered species could be saved from extinction, wildlife activists announced on Tuesday.

At least 116 animals were observed in seven surveys in the central province of Quang Nam, experts from the environmental group WWF and Conservation International (CI) said in a statement.

Scientists estimate a population of over 100 individuals, and many more may live in the surrounding forest as only a small part of the area was surveyed.

"To put into a human perspective, the douc are very like finding a new country with over one billion people in it," said CI biologist Ilka Herzog.

"We now have a much greater opportunity to overcome the very serious threats faced by this species and preserve its disappearance from our planet," he said.

The gray-shanked douc, one of the world's 25 most endangered primates, has only been recorded in Vietnam's Quang Nam, Kon Tum, Quang Ngai, Binh Dinh and Gia Lai provinces.

Fewer than 1,000 individuals are believed to still exist and, as of now, only one other population with more than 100 animals was known, the scientists said.

"It's very rare to discover a population of this size with such high numbers in a small area, especially for a species on the brink of extinction," said Ramsy Lang, a coordinator for the WWF in Vietnam.

"This indicates that the population has not been impacted by hunting like all other known populations of the species," he said. AFP

SPORTS
Editor Rodolfo S. Matanzaro Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Chiles

WHAT'S INSIDE
Czech teen ends Mauresmo reign /A24

A TALE OF TWO COACHES. Robert Jaworski (right) may be heading back to the PBA as Ali's Pumaen. The great Baby Dalupan, on the other hand, finds his league record under siege by Bimbo's Tim Cone (story below).

Jaworski returning to PBA next season

PSC chairmanship stands in way of Air21 stint

By Mussing R. Carrillo

ROBERT JAWORSKI WILL BE MAKING HIS MUCH-ANTICIPATED return to the Philippine Basketball Association, the league he helped make great, in the next season.

That is, if a greater calling does not get in the way.

The 63-year-Living Legend, one of the three all-around players this country has ever produced, has received talks with ASEC management about a coaching job after the contracts of Bo Perasol and his teammates were renewed.

Sources said that management had actually talked to members of Perasol's staff and told them that only Boyet could remain with the Cagayan for next year as he will be named Jaworski's chief deputy.

ASEC and the former Toyota actually opened talks with Yahoo! for reigning PBA Fiesta Cup champ, but no deal was sealed.

Many is sanguine that the only thing standing in the way of Jaworski's return is the former associate's outward appointment as Williams "Bambi" Ramirez' replacement as chair of the Philippine Sports Commission.

Relationship had also asked Ramirez and his commissioners to tender their resignations last week, and talk has been swirling around that Jaworski is being eyed for Ramirez' position.

Team manager Ato Alcuaz did not return messages or answer phone calls of the sources.

"It is very clear that we don't have an explosive lineup like the other teams," Perasol told the sources over the phone. "And it is Jaworski is there to coach). He says the team will be fired up more and will perform even better.

"But of course, his name is good for our (ASEC) brand name."

Perasol is also employed at the global sportswear brand of Bobby, whose Philippine franchise is owned by ASEC. He was responsible for the third-place finish of the team in the Fiesta Cup last year, from last year's last-ever Fiba finish.

He said that he will have no problems ceding down to our assistant's position.

"I am not privy to the negotiations," Perasol said. "I don't know any of the details of their talks.

PERASOL, A23

Cone chases a legend's mark

JAMES "JIMGROM Jaworski Dalupan
4:30 p.m. — Red Horse Sandpiper Bar
1 (02) 8... — Alaska's Fab 5 Cut

By Mussing R. Carrillo

TURN SPORTS AND (LAUGH) RAY he was his agent, but like "Tiger" Woods to the US Open, Alaska coach Tim Cone also has a legend to chase.

Cone nailed a 15th appearance in a Philippine Basketball Association (PBA) semis Monday night to start the clamor to nail down a 12th title and every other to the all-time record being held by the retired Freddie "Baby" Dalupan.

"Yes, I've lost some of them (title semis) and I've also won a few," Cone said after his team came from behind deepest being a key player shot to eliminate Sta. Miguel, 9-2, in the last of seven semifinal series on Sunday.

"Frankly speaking, I have forgotten how this thinking it Freddy's feats like," the 50-year-old American added. "But this gives me a chance to again close my idol, Baby (Dalupan) to the all-time race."

Seven (five of his best of seven showdowns with Talk 'N Text and Derrick Pumaren is set at 7:30 p.m. tomorrow and both have prepared themselves for a long grind.

Dalupan, referred to as "the Maestro," has 21 titles across his legendary career after winning championships with defunct teams Crispa-Redmanizers and the Great Taste-Coffee Makers, and with Purefoods in the early 1990s.

"I have been a fan of his since I came over for the Philippines when I was eight years old," Cone recounted. "I watched the Manu International league) and the early years of the PBA for most of his.

"It was a genius of what he did."

Cone will be appearing in only his first 40th series since losing the 2002 Governors Cup to the greats in the Purefoods Tender Juicy Hotdogs. And he admitted going through hell just to be able to get here.

"That's why we're not satisfied just making it here," he said Tuesday after-noon. "We will win (this title)," he-man something less than that will be considered.

CONE, A30

CONE: Baby is my idol.

CANDONA: Captain Hook

MILLER: Tatoy

Teacher-student matchup highlights 'Fiesta' finals

WILLIE MILLER REMEMBERS THE TIME when he used to shoot Mac Cardona in the eyes when the former De La Salle forward-cy was still feeling his way around the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA).

"Don't kid us. Talk 'N Text isn't young anymore. Jaworski (Before), when I was still with Talk 'N Text, we used to guard each other a lot [in practice]," said Miller. "We [my team-mates] kept saying that I should always be up close because [my teammates] couldn't keep up [my moves]. I used to be his mate and he used to follow-us, and they'll tell him. It used to be one-to-teach him the plays of the team."

Several matchups depicted from those grassfield days, Miller finally gets an up-close chance to one-upjust how far Cardona has gone from there.

As-is, really close.

Miller and Cardona will get their reunion slugfest rapport in the semifinals of their rematch as their respective teams head for a PBA Fiesta Cup title showdown that will have both players not just in the spotlight.

They will also be matched up against each other when Game 1 of the best-of-seven series kicks off tomorrow at the Araneta Coliseum.

And here's adding to the intrigue: Aside from the role on the line, the two explosive guards are also in a dramatic footrace for the Best Player of the Conference award.

Cardona heads that race for more...after Talk 'N Text swingman ranked first in statistical points, while the Alaska dual-role guard trails fifth. But when crunch comes, the unused will lead shares of the two players, with a two-to-three-point gap separating their scores for the season.

This clash's facing off for a title series now appeared impossible just a couple of seasons ago, when both of them still wore the same Phone Pals jersey and Miller took Cardona—then a PBA rookie—under his wings.

But a lot of things have taken place since that time.

Miller was slapped by the Phone Pals in the Asyo in a mega-trade while Cardona readily blossomed into a certified league superstar on

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Castro, Lanete, Devance show up for RP tryouts

By Marc Anthony Reyes

JASON CASTRO AND CHRIS LANETE, two guards who have made a name for themselves in the amateur ranks, yesterday flashed the signals for the national crown that will see action in the Southeast Asian Games in Thailand this December.

Their presence gave rise to speculation that they will skip this year's Philippine Basketball Association rookie draft to be able to use for big stint overseas.

Castro had earlier declared his intention to turn professional and join the August draft, but he seems to have made a turnaround in the light of an appeal made by national team basketball coach Rino Vitaliano of Southeast Center that the top amateurs, particularly Castro and Devance, join Smart Gilas Pilipinas pool for the country's new team slot before joining the PBA.

Also an intriguing presence in the tryouts was FEU-Dr. Jose Fabella center Mac Belo, a rookie subbed as a lottery pick in the coming draft.

The happy Castro and Lanete] came over to join the tryout," said coach Jimel Bacudi, who conducted the tryouts at the Rizal gym with coaching staff members Louie Alas, Alfred Tecson and Ryan Ty. "It's a good indication that I hope they are really devoted to play for the country."

Though they have yet to formally announce their decision to stay for one more season in the NCAA, Castro and Lanete are set to meet with Hardcourt Center officials led by Boysen, also the amateur basketball players-Dennis and Erick Arigala Dalisay.

The backcourt tandem played big roles when the Harbour 87 squad captained the Southeast Asian Basketball Association club championship last April in Jakarta.

Also showing up in the tryouts were Ateneo De Manila's Enzo Belga and Ryan Arana, and Letran King's Mike Ayson, Mike Hrabe and Beaker Bartel.

Excited over the prospect of the country once again competing in the SEAG basketball meet, Intl Hamahang Basketball ng Pilipinas executive director Patrick Urrutia-de and board of trustees member Christian Tan also dropped by to watch the proceedings.

Gregorio also said that he has asked the UAAP and NCAA founders to allow their players to attend the tryouts which will be held every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Among the collegiate players being eyed are Le Jude's Alex Mallebuffin and TY Tang, University of the East's Marvy Arellano, Mark Borboran and Elmer Espera, University of Santo Tomas' Jerry Cruz, San Beda's Jeng Bacudio and Yousif Aljamal, and San Sebastian's Jason Ballesteros and Jun Vivas.

Lions survive Ekwe absence, rip Cardinals

Altas turn back Blazers

ROOFMAN Mason (left) of San Beda battles for the loose ball in a battle for possession against Jonathan Bonsol of Mapua. Mason helped the Lions back the absence of Sam Ekwe, the hardworking 6-foot-8 center, who sat out yesterday's game because of a league-ordered suspension.

AUGUST DELOS SANTOS

By Marc Anthony Reyes

SAN BEDA RESIGNS A POTENT FORCE even without Sam Ekwe.

The Red Lions, wasting more effort in comparison for the absence of their hulking 6-foot-8 center, beat the Mapua Cardinals, 87-77, last night to gain the sole lead with their third straight win in the NCAA men's basketball tournament at The Arena in San Juan.

Handicapped by the determined Cardinals, the Red Lions went through the stringer before they put away matters when they rushed by an many as eight points, 64-56.

But the Red Lions quickly recovered by making eight of its free throws recorded Chris Lutzenkirchen by the referees. That final account part of the chart period, marked by a technical foul imposed on Mark Arcena, helped the Lions' turnaround. The ball changed hands in all this, just coach Leo Isaac, who was later also dropped with a neutral technical foul.

"It's all about a test of character," said San Beda coach Frankie Lim. "I think we have did a good job. Right now our chemistry is intact."

With Ekwe serving a one-game suspension, 6-foot-7 Dave Marcelo stepped up for San Beda understudy, making 10 points and 13 rebounds. The Red Lions got the expected output from Yousif Aljamal and Ogie Menor and extra help from rebel guard Castro Lozano, who for back-to-back three pointers at the start of the fourth quarter to give San Beda a 75-66 rebound.

But Mapua held fort in the final period, with Ian Bella folding on to a shaky 81-79 lead, 1:07 to go. But the referees dropped that technical on Isaac, Ping Bonbol buried the two free throws extended the count to nine. Menor added a free throw and was charged with a five-second violation.

That finally broke the Cardinals' resolve as they refused to handle to the next play and allowed the Red Lions to hand them their third straight defeat.

Earlier, Perpetual Help found inspiration from Johnson rookie from Davao to beat St. Benilde, 82-52, and jump eight back in order.

The 6-foot-10 guard scored nine points, including four clutch baskets in the fourth quarter, to bring forth the energy for the Altas, who dropped their first two games. The Blazers dropped once a six-with their conquerors at 1-2.

"I told the boys not to give up, this is not the end yet because we can still turn things around," said Perpetual coach Bai Cristobal, who lost two key players this season, Efrid Mina and Fren Bautista, before losing 6-foot-9 Indonesian Yfourth Imran due to ineligibility.

"We needed someone to drive and make the baskets for us," he added.

That came in the form of Dyson, who rose from the bench to spearhead the Altas' offense which, before he came along, seemed going nowhere.

Dyson also had four rebounds in just 11 minutes of action. Mario Lim top scored with 14 points and added three rebounds and two assists. Michael King chipped in 13 points, six rebounds and five assists.

Jiado Orbon once again powered the Blazers but he failed to get support from the rest of the team as they waited the Altas all game long. The Blazers once stayed at a 47-35 lead late in the third quarter.

Having the Blazers was a cold 23 per cent accuracy from the field, a performance that kept St. Benilde from taking advantage of the fact that Perpetual only managed a 34 percent clip from the floor.

St. Benilde also failed to get the usual numbers from big guy Christian Cabacy and Jeff Mendal, who would only produce two and four points, respectively.

The scores	
First Game	
PERPETUAL (82) – Cap 14, King 13, Dyson 11, Bonsol 7, Perez 6, Lao 6, Salinas 5, Galanga 2, Rosco 2, Fabiyani 2.	
ST. BENILDE (52) – Orbon 14, Jimilo 8, Pabilo 8, Lutzenkirchen 6, Ilagan 4, Lapuz 3, Mercado 3, Gabriel 2, Parra 2, Bautista 2.	
Quarters: 19-13, 28-25, 47-35, 82-52	
Second Game	
MAPUA (87) – Aljamal 21, Menor 15, Lozano 11, Lanuzo 11, Arcena 10, Mercado 10, Yenson 3, Ilagan 2, Bonbol 2, Bagaoisan 2.	
MAPUA (77) – Ou 19, Bella 15, Del Rosario 12, Dela Pena 11, Pascual 8, Acuda 2, Gallanosa 2, Sunadnoy 4, Bello 0.	
Quarters: 27-21, 45-38, 64-64, 87-77	

SPORTSWATCH

Jaguar Phils cops 3rd in World Golf Final

50 fights in Las Pinas coolfest today

Round 2 of Roligon derby stakes P3.5M

BULLSEYE: Eight-year-old Joseph Mortiano of Grace Christian High takes careful aim at the target during the recent Score Challenge Competition held at the Amoranto Sports Complex shooting range. Mortiano scored 137, beating Chloi Villanueva's 126 to bag the title. The competition for young shooters aged eight to 15 was included in the Quezon City-Barangay Sport Shooting Organization under national coach Orly Hoopoe.

Tigresses get ready for UAAP

By Ramina S. Austria

IF THE BATTLE BETWEEN THE COUNTRY'S best collegiate volleyball teams, the desire to one-dedicated schools squad should be the right-ful winner.

University of Santo Tomas, with key players Mary Jean Balse and guest Genevieve Nuno abandoning their hospital beds, swept San Sebastian College to bag its second Shakey's V League women's volleyball tournament crown last Tuesday at The Arena in San Juan City.

"Mink na nanoti kabayanin (We could not have done it)," said winning UST coach Angeles Santiniano at the prospects if her Tolentino recuperating from a serious ailment. Nuno, also confined in a hospital bed, swept her to victory.

Balse and Nuno, a former University of the East spiker who also entered an Adamson tryout during the eliminations, secured their doctor's go-signal at the last minute to be able to play in Game 3.

The UST Tigresses have affected with the fit since Sunday's Game 1 which the Tigresses handily won, 25-17, 25-12, 25-17.

"My players really showed the heart to win tonight so, they were already confined for the UST hospital, but were still thinking of the game," said Santiniano.

After winning Game 2, 25-14, 25-19, 17-25, 25-23, Balse and Nuno briefly joined the celebration on court before returning to the dugout to rest.

It was the perfect ending to the campaign of the Tigresses who defeated Taiwan-Taipei twice after back-to-back elimination round losses save those on the break at 2-3.

Santiniano said that with the way his players blasted the opposition en route to their second title after winning the inaugural one-game, best-of-three finals, they are more than ready to defend their UAAP crown.

"We treat every match as if there's no tomorrow. We have to be ready at all times. We owe it to the school and to our supporters," said Santiniano.

TAIPEI BOUND: Huntington City Mayor Edwin San Pedro embraces the Fighting Divas Swim Club on his first day of office. The Divas, under the tutelage of coach Susan Papa, former champion swimmer and Philippine record holder, is composed of swimmers aged 6-14 who have been participating in local and international swimming competitions. The Divas are set to compete in Taipei.

DRAGON BOAT

Farmers, fishermen row to victory in China event

PEL CAMARERO JUR. – GMA ON YEAR IN, in professional races and the Cantron Dragon Boat Team (CDBT) to already counting waves ahead.

The 33-man CDBT hopped in second consecutive win in the 40-Nanning International Dragon Boat Tournament in China, sweeping all events.

In the open international competition in Nanning City from June 13-16 as part of the celebration of the Chinese National Dragon Boat Month, the CDBT won all events of the 500-meter and 800-meter races to make bone-any gold medals and six trophies for the over-all championship.

CDBT, composed of farmers and fishermen from seven towns in Camarines Sur, also scored a repeat of their performance in Singapore on September 2006 when they bagged all the gold medals staked in the Sirsa Sprint international dragon boat competition.

The opportunity to showcase their skills came when the provincial government sent a team to the Asiarea Cup held at the Manila Bay in March last year, placing third in their first professional race.

After their first race, the racing team was given proper equipment and training by the provincial government.

"I was convinced of their performance, that they could compete in the international races as a way of promoting our province and closeness of our local talents," said Gov. Luis Raymund "Lray" Villafuerte.

The team had also participated in Boracay races, where it humbled veterans and foreign participants in the dragon boat races by grabbing the championship in two separate events. Asad Ekremdet, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Belated Father's Day story

IN HUDDLE

Barb Cello

MY SON SEBASTIAN came home the other day with a story that would have been perfect for Father's Day.

The story is about Pinoybomb singer Marc Pangilinan, who is in bed now for the first time at the SpottsCampsix Post Residencies last Tuesday.

A man who knows no stand, Raymund told his interviewer-son caught when he overheard Marc talk about a forthcoming trip to France, one of several countries in Europe which he found very interesting.

But started a conversation, Marc said he was very excited about the trip because he was going to meet his friends there, who is based in Normandy for the first time. Marc said his father was invited as well.

Hugyir said his mother had been trying to locate his father for years, but the search always ended in frustration. Finally, he gave up.

But three dishes! He reunited with his wife Beatrice about his decades-old dream of searching his father and to surprise the couple visited the quest with Dorice leading the way and doing most of the work.

She sought the help of the French Embassy and utilized the Internet extensively, never revealing that it is mission-critical she found who she was looking for. In the end, she was rewarded for all that effort.

I can never guess the details of the drama behind that five telephone conversations or even the first name of Marc's father. All I know is that Marc and Dorice are leaving for Normandy any day now for the long over due reunion.

I intend to have a long interview with the Pinpakan as soon as they return from their European voyage.

In the meantime, although I didn't mean to get... I just had to tell PNP's premier three Pambi to get a 'total' loyalty sketch of Marc since I practically know nothing about him.

"Marc's father was working in the MWSS... if he was somewhere... where he met Marc's mother Lutes," he returned to "However," related Manny Pardo, who obviously will not make a great interviewer.

Manny Pardo said the couple will leave for Normandy on July 7, with Marc carrying a French passport.

Adieu! Bon Voyage! Don't forget to break up on your (Pardo-ese?) Pennoels, guys.

At the end of the 2000 PBA Talk N Text Cup series, Phone Pal Mark Cardona was leading the Best Player of the Conference race with 322 coverage statistical points.

The official list of statistics released by PBA head statistician Nilo Mangonon also includes Danilo Ildefonso with 321 points, Sta. Lucia's Bally Wilhelm with 316 points, the 22's Gary David with 314 points and Alaska's Willie Miller with 29 points.

My colleague Gil Jacqueline O. Gomez of the Philippine News Agency who shares the same profound interest in the world with me has a funny way of predicting the outcome of the 49th basketball season championship series between Alaska and Talk and Text.

I don't know what method of divination Gil, Archie O. used to make her forecast, but the picture that comes to mind during last Tuesday's press conference at the Golden Seafood Restaurant is that of Lily perusing her cue on the monsoon of tomatoes Ma-Cino and Derick Manzanero used the player.

Or like a doctor, she could be using a stethoscope to listen to the ramblings of the digestive system of these people to determine which between the two teams makes the loudest noise collectively.

"The hungrier team will win, because they will be more aggressive, intense and determined," she pronounced, as the fortune-telling duo became of the two contenders starved.

Actually, I think both coaches and both teams are just as hungry as the other. For me what will be interesting to watch is the bench on the bench.

For sure, both coaches will be coming well prepared.

For Derick, the preparations for the finals started immediately after the last game of the semifinal series, where the coaching staff immediately mapped out their game plan until 4:30 in the morning.

They viewed tapes, assessed matchups, discussed strategies.

Derick and his boys do not expect drastic changes from their Alaska counterparts.

But tight, Derick got so carried away he lost track of time. He was so ready to go that he thought the first game of the series would be on Wednesday instead of Friday.

Bustamante, Biado joining Korean Open Pool July 26-29

FILIPINOS JAVEN BUSTAMANTE and Carlo Biado hope to exclude Dick rise to stardom when the 2001 Korea Open Pool Tour gets going in South Korea on July 26-29.

Bustamante and Biado will play against some of the world's best cue artists, including former world champions Thorsten Hohmann and Ralf Souquet of Germany and Mika Immonen of Finland, in the tournament that offers $7,000 in the champion.

The 24-year-old Bustamante, dreamsolution of former world No. 1 Francisco "Django" Bustamante, settled for third place in the 2000 World Pool Championship in the Philippines, United Arab Emirates, early this year. His Rapy mentor-teamer Ronnie Alcano and Dennis Orcollo finished first and second.

"We are grateful to Jesse Perry Manalo for giving us and Carlo Biado the break to play in the Korean Open," said Bustamante, who upset Alcano in the 2nd SMART Open. "Well, do our best to bring glory to the country."

To prepare for the Korean Open, Bustamante will play in a Class B Player 10-ball event being organized by Pepsi Sports and Bugo Promotions on July 19 at the Bowling Inn on Taft Avenue.

The 25-year-old Biado is hoping to bounce back from a disappointing year in the last Japan Open where he failed to advance to the knockout stage. -Marilou Bernardino, Contributor

BUSTAMANTE

BIADO

SAN DIEGO, California – Padres' Brian Giles is tagged out at second base by Cincinnati Reds' Pokey Reese during the second inning of their game in San Diego Tuesday.

RP athletes to get crack at Chinese

By Jess Navarro

THE ATHLETES SENT BY THE PHILIPPINE SPORTS COMMISSION TO train in China will get a rare opportunity of jetting their skills against the Chinese national team.

PSC chair William "Butch" Ramirez announced yesterday that nursing the needs of the athletes from wushu, boxing, diving, weightlifting against China's host for the 2008 Beijing Olympics could be the ultimate of their foreign stint.

By imposing dates in their Chinese counterparts, Ramirez said the 20 athletes would have a chance not only to step up the country but to also measure the progress of their training for the qualifying tournaments of the Olympics.

"They (athletes) will get to see how the Chinese athletes compete up close," said Ramirez, who reasoned that the Filipinos should be ranged against the Chinese at least twice a month throughout the two-year training program.

According to Ramirez, the PSC is spending $50 a day for each athlete, inclusive of food and accommodation while the Guangdong training facility apart from the $200 monthly stipend that athletes would be receiving.

Include the trainers and the laws of the Chinese coaches, which Ramirez failed to divulge, and the PSC is bound to shell out a least $2 million counted for the training program.

Zhang Guangren, coach of former world champion Li Jiazhuo, will be the mentor of Gilbert Dan in the 48-kilogram class. Rhea Sibal, world champion and Olympic silver medalist Chen Beijing and triple gold medalist Huang Hsiaoti are assigned to the gymnasts.

World Kickbox, the country's top gymnast, dispatch the Chinese top dog for his coach assigned last week.

Multiple gold medalists Chen Xinping, Wang Meng and Chen Qingying will handle the wushu team composed of Benjie Rivera, Eduard Folayang, Maximino Morones, Mary Rose Jaimlan, Willy Wang and Jason Liang.

"If the athletes are not comfortable in their training, we would bring them home since we're paying the Chinese on a monthly basis," said Ramirez.

Other top athletes are Gladys Erram, Mico Garag, Dharyn Lemes and route skater Shedie Jaime Sark, Bayan Ryan Arriga, Kevin Jeng and Zenda Dominico of diving.

Mariners test Roosters for title

IT'S GOING TO BE YOUTH VERSUS EXPERIENCE when the Makati Mariners battle the Sorsogon Roosters for the first ever Baseball Philippines championship at 3 p.m. on Sunday at the Makati Memorial Baseball Stadium.

The Roosters will be working behind a roster filled with national players led by Ernesto Blanco while the Mariners are relying on their USAP-reinforced lineup led by reigning USAP Most Valuable Player Jordan Bobby.

"It's going to be a good game," said Makati team manager Jeff Santiago in the PSA-Nestea at Shakey's United Nations Avenue branch on Tuesday. "Nagsa is strong because most of its players are members of the national team. But we're young and aggressive. We're the underdogs, but we'll give them a good fight."

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World Kickbox, the country's top gymnast, dispatch the Chinese top dog for his coach assigned last week.

Multiple gold medalists Chen Xinping, Wang Meng and Chen Qingying will handle the wushu team composed of Benjie Rivera, Eduard Folayang, Maximino Morones, Mary Rose Jaimlan, Willy Wang and Jason Liang.

"If the athletes are not comfortable in their training, we would bring them home since we're paying the Chinese on a monthly basis," said Ramirez.

Other top athletes are Gladys Erram, Mico Garag, Dharyn Lemes and route skater Shedie Jaime Sark, Bayan Ryan Arriga, Kevin Jeng and Zenda Dominico of diving.

Top players vying in Pichay chess

THE COUNTRY'S LEADING PLAYERS ARE EXpected to compete in the 4th Pinapen-Pichay Invitational Open Chess Tournament slated Aug. 11 to 15 in Castillejos, Zambales del Sur.

The nine-round Swiss system tournament, sanctioned by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines, will offer P150,000 in championship, P40,000 to the second placer and P20,000 to the third placer. Other top 10 placers will also receive cash prizes.

The tournament is being held to honor the late father of NCFP president and former representative Prospero "Butch" Pichay Jr. and is conjunction with the celebrations of the Castillejos fiesta.

Tournament director Cesar Caranto said the event aims to discover potential chess players in the province for the recent inaugural 500 Ernesto Fernandez of Pagadian City last year is P2000.

For inquiries, contact Caranto at (018) 713-2397. -Marilou Bernardino, Contributor

Davao City hosts Milo leg Sunday

DAVAO CITY WILL HOST THE SIXteenth leg of the 31st National Milo Marathon on Sunday in an out and back route on the Bicol Park.

Defending champion Rosemarie Bayarte Villarosa of Tagum City will have to contend with the region's top runners like Jamel Langinlo, Bey Mendejesda, Elmer Bacledo, Joelito Dano, Angelito Silvano and Isidel Bustamante.

Last year's women's champion Lyqui Dimamba, a fitness aerobic instructor from Cebu, will not join the fame City race.

Jane Granadez, Estela Matsuoka, who topped the Malapatan City leg last year, is expected to rule the Mindanao Strong Gardenia and Princess Jane April Blue Star of General Santos, Rachel Velasco of Iligan City and Amorlean Kristina McNeil.

More than 7,000 runners are expected to join the country's premier running event held in partnership with Milo, Inquirer.net, Philippine Sports Commission and the Department of Tourism.

Philippine Sports Commissioner Leon G. Mercenmayan, City Sports coordinator Christopher "Bong" Go, City councilor Peter Lavina and City Council Sports chair April Marie Dayao have invited to place the ascending cities with Milo MVP for Sports Pal first-leg and Milo marathon national race organizer Rudy Biscocho.

The build of the 5K runners will come from Sta. Ana National High School, Pt. Pedro National High School and Daniel R. Aguinaldo National High School.

TeleTech, Air Relay gain MBT-Bayan semis

DEFENDING CHAMPION TELETECH got a big lift from Jonas Martinez and Ron Mineza to equalize DBSC, 68-67, and secure a semis berth in the MBT Bayan Call Center League over the weekend at the RTU gym in Mandaluyong.

Martinez and Mineza combined for 40 points to power TeleTech into the Best-of-three semis series headed by Jonas in the fourth with his sorely missing shooting.

With the win, TeleTech set up a semis duel against fresh Magkis Air Relay.

Also securing berths in the semis of the event sponsored by Bayan Telecommunications and Xpax, the mobile handline phone, were Pacific Communications and Optimist.

Mitch Ferrer, coach of the latter, Air Relay clubbered Converge, 10-00, while Pacific Communications topped NCD Group, 66-61, thanks largely to the inspired performance of Bernard Uy and Hansel Mendigoria.

Banking on its third running game anchored on Allan Cruz, Delmarvin Abella and Max Sumerano, Optimist demolished Sitel, 75-56, in the event-ender supported by Mighty Wins Kings, then Pacific Rural Bank Sportsmen, Team Sparrow and Mobex.

Teacher-student matchup. . .

From page A11

his sophomore year, especially in the conference with the Phone Pals beating their top three gunners—Jun Yambon, Jimmy Mapag and Reuben Rilanko—to the tournament honors.

"With their paths expected to cross each other in the Finals, the 6-foot-1 Talk 'N Text guard dubbed as "Captain Hook" admitted he's thrilled second at the prospect of going up against Miller one on one.

"Both ang natutol sako dahil first time ko siya sa Finals. I'm really excited because this is my first time in a Finals," said Cardenas. "At the same time, nakakakaba rin kasi ang laki-laki ni Willie Miller. Could also be matched up against my old idol, Willie Miller."

Miller, leader in dumpster with Red Bull and also an MVP winner in 2002, admits he has watched Cardenas blossomed and wasn't be surprised if the rookie-looking Phone Pal takes him to school every now and then. It wouldn't be, after all, the first time.

"Nakita ko siya [young teammate signing book after long pepene game. Or games. So [makes me a thing of two about the book does," Miller said, referring to Cardenas's trademark shot.

The tandem of Cardenas and the defensive-end Bell-Aire veteran Willie Miller will be the battle of the conference, especially in the semifinals against second chance, pain Red Bull, which he averaged 27.5 points per game. That was highlighted by a career-high 30 points in the series clinching 122-110 victory. Another high point was part of Red Bull's perfect-12 moments in the last seven games.

Despite Cardenas's sudden rise to stardom, Cone doesn't believe the Phone Pals would name down to a "Cardenas Game", stressing that everything will boil down on what "the five guys on the floor can do."

Still, there's no denying Cardenas will be a marked man this coming championship series.

And whether he likes it or not, Miller has had a hand in making the Phone Pals' gained into the defensive nightmare he has become.

Jaworski. . .

From page A11

other than it [negotiations] has been ongoing since during the Lorenzo Pozon Cup]."

Another PATA development, unsupported reportedly turned down two trade offers from Coca-Cola and Talk 'N Text for Gary David, the leagues outgoing who was one of the top local scorers of the tournament.

David, who averaged more than 14 points a night for the Raptors in the tournament, will be ready by November, close to two months after the next season opens. He is recovering from arthroscopic surgery that repair a torn ACL.

Cone. . .

From page A11

need a fulltime on one game."

Woods got his crack at a 13th Major title when the 2007 British Open tees off in a couple of weeks. Tiger is actually working to win the world's oldest national championship for the third straight year.

And like Tiger, who is just one day of Jack Nicklaus' all-time mark of 18.

SPORTS

Czech teen ends Mauresmo reign

NICOLE Vaidisova of the Czech Republic slams one of the topped wins of her career, a 7-6, 6-0, 6-1 decision over defending champion Amelie Mauresmo during the fourth round of the Wimbledon tennis championships in London. AP

WIMBLEDON, ENGLAND—EVEN IN Wimbledon standards, there's been a lot of rain this year at the All England Club.

The Bobbi English version caused stoppages and postponements on some of the last matches into late.

And the summer morning and stopping didn't do much to help defending champion Amelie Mauresmo—she lost in the fourth round Tuesday to 18-year-old Nicole Vaidisova, 7-6 (6), 6-0, 6-1.

"For me, in a match [where rhythm throughout the whole match than I was," the two-time major champion said. "Definitely those interruptions don't help."

On Wednesday, 2006 runner-up Rafael Nadal and Robin Soderling were scheduled to head back on to the court to complete a third-round match that was supposed to be played last Saturday.

The second seed, who had a month point Monday to the third set, played for around of 30 minutes in the fifth set Tuesday to get to 4-4.

Also, No. 2 Maria Sharapova and Venus Williams were to resume their third-round match after playing only three points Tuesday, and No. 3 Andy Roddick was to finish his fourth-round match against Paul-Henri Mathieu, No. 4 Novak Djokovic was also to finish his suspended third-round match against Mardy Fish.

Serena Williams, who overcame a calf strain to reach the quarterfinals, was scheduled to play top-ranked Justine Henin.

Play on Center Court and Court No. 1 started two hours earlier than usual Tuesday because of the backlog of matches. Only seven singles matches were completed in between the interruptions.

Organizers said they sent 177 matches behind schedule, including 33 in singles—eight in the men's draw and five for the women.

Results Tuesday: No. 3 Jelena Jankovic was upset, playing through four interruptions and losing to No. 30 Michaella Krajicek 3-6, 7-5, 6-3.

"There is no reason for me to lose this match," Jankovic said. "But in those circumstances anything can happen."

Krajicek will next face No. 21 Michaella Krajicek in the first Grand Slam quarterfinal for both players.

In the third round of the ninth-day, 2002 Wimbledon champion Jayson Hewitt beat Vladimir Ezrati, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, and Nikolay Davydenko defeated by defending champion Carl Moulin, 6-3, 7-5, 6-3.

"That's the longest and toughest [set-distance] match I've ever had so you say with," said Hewitt, who was originally scheduled to play Lleyton on Saturday.

Juan Carlos Ferrero, the 2003 French Open champion, also reached the fifth-seeded quarterfinals for the first time by beating Jarkko Nieminen, 7-5, 6-7, 7-6 (2) and will next face four-time defending champion Roger Federer, who has not played since Friday.

"It was very important to win because this was now starting again," Ferrero said, "So I need to think in that way."

Mauresmo had 14 double faults and 37 unforced errors against Vaidisova, who reached the quarterfinals for the first time in the All England Club.

Vaidisova will play No. 6 seed Jelena in the quarterfinals. The French Open runner-up beat Nadia Petrova, 9-7, 2-6, 6-4, in a match interrupted for rain four times.

Also, 2004 U.S. Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsova reached the quarterfinals by beating 16-year-old Tamira Paszek of Austria, 6-3, 6-1, and will next face either Venus Williams or Sharapova. AP

AUSTRALIA'S Stephen Huss is serves Argentina's Guillermo Canas to advance to the final 16. AFP

Homer No. 751 moves Bonds within four of Aaron's record

CINCINNATI—BY THE TIME CITY school chief Aaron completed his quiz, Barry Bonds came up clutching.

Prodding at the first three pitches he saw, Bonds connected on his third of the homer No. 751 on Tuesday night. He's now four shy of Aaron's record following the San Francisco Giants' 7-3 loss to the Cincinnati Reds.

"He's a guy that people were saying, 'Is Babe Ruth catching up with him?'" manager Bruce Bochy said.

Instead, Bonds got closer to catching Aaron in the city where Aaron first took his No. 714, tying Babe Ruth's previous mark. That record-book homer on opening day 1974 landed at then-Fulton Stadium, which has since been demolished.

Aaron's record soon will be, too.

Bonds homered on his third swing of the game three batted and prolonged his streak from the record of 37 2/9, a reminder that fans outside of San Francisco view his record chase through the prism of baseball's steroid scandal.

Like it or not, he's closing in.

"I'm playing every good for an old guy," the 42-year-old Bonds said. "I just wish we were playing better as a team."

So do the Reds, who have the major league's worst record and its newest manager.

Brandon Phillips' grand slam gave Pete Mackanin a victory in his debut as Cincinnati's interim manager. AP

Daughter's birth steals Tiger's concentration

BETHESDA, MARYLAND—THERE WAS the slightest crack in Tiger Woods' voice when he did a TV interview after walking off the 18th green at the U.S. Open, where he finished a three-stroke second.

Now we know why.

Woods revealed on Tuesday that his wife, Elin, was admitted to the hospital on the Thursday of the U.S. Open, expressing concern because she pregnant to deliver their couple's first child.

"It wasn't life-threatening or anything, but she just had a few problems and had to be admitted," Woods said. "It wasn't sure it was not early, because I wanted to be there.

And the doctor and Elin said, 'There's nothing you can do. So go out there and just get it 'W.'

"Well, come close. But that might turn in Brandy's more resounding than only 'W' ever could have been."

Talk of Build/Tiger mostly dominated as conversation the oral reason for his appearance at Congressional Country Club. He now U.S. PGA Tour tournaments, the AT&T National, which will run Thursday.

Tagore and grounded at times but easy, stoical as others, Woods spoke for the first time about the birth of Sam Alexis Woods on the morning of June 16 and his subsequent first 24 weeks of fatherhood.

As often is the case when discussing his private life, Woods was terse at first. Asked to give a timeline of the night of his daughter's birth, he said simply: "I flew, landed in Orlando, went straight to the hospital and was there for hours; we have been there in our area."

Asked if he would have returned to Orlando the next day for an 18-hole playoff had he finished the final hole to tie leader Angel Cabrera, Woods said: "Well, that didn't happen, as it would be all hypothetical. I'll just keep doing what I can."

Asked how he managed to focus on his game those four days, he said, "We just do. You just do."

"You've got to understand," said Swami Satgiar Woods' longtime friend and teammate at Stanford University. "When you grow up with a father and a military background, you've got to learn how to focus when you have distractions."

And, for the record, Woods said he already has put a golf club in his young daughter's crib hands. AP

Mavs teach Yi tough cage lessons

DALLAS—YI JIANLIAN'S FIRST TASTE OF NBA competition did not go smoothly as he scored 11 points for China in a 109-104 loss to the Dallas Mavericks' summer league team on Tuesday.

Yi, ordered with the sixth overall pick by the Milwaukee Bucks in the NBA draft, had just two points in the second half for their 3-for-9 from the field while committing three turnovers in 21 minutes. He did have a team-leading 10 rebounds, along with two assists and two blocked shots.

"Just the second game from missing three months," Yi said, stating that he just registered the national team. "I think we'll get there."

Reportedly unhappy with the prospect of playing in a city with a small Asian population, Yi will not have endorsements in NBA cities.

Yao Ming's effort as emerging to point of fan against the U.S. United 19 years. Yi showed flashes of brilliance but also struggled as time in an inconsistent showing.

"It's very difficult to talk about Yi," China coach Jesse Bachelardus said. "There durable, he was by himself without team and national coaches. I've coach seven, eight games to coach up with us."

The crowd at Moody Collegiate were quiet early in the second quarter when Yi sank to the floor doubled over in pain, holding his stomach. After remaining down for about a minutes, Yi received to assess and came down with a released on the next play.

Yi's teammate, Jun Yul, who went 4/15, served as the Los Angeles Lakers, contributed nine points while former Maverick and five-year NBA veteran Wang Zhizhi scored 10 points for China. AP

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6-month budget deficit hits ₱37.7B

Teves says figure exceeded ceiling by P6.4B

By Michelle V. Remo

FINANCE SECRETARY MARGARITO TEVES YESTERDAY admitted that the government likely breached the budget-deficit ceiling that it set for the first half of the year.

Teves said that preliminary figures from the Department of Finance showed that the budget deficit for the January-to-June period exceeded the P31.3-billion ceiling by P6.4 billion as the shortfall was estimated at P37.7 billion.

"The first half deficit ceiling was in line with the government's goal of keeping the budget gap for the entire year to only P62 billion, or slightly lower than last year's P66.8 billion.

The expected deficit for the first half was blamed on poor revenue collection by the Bureau of Internal Revenue and of Customs, the two main sources of revenues for the national government.

Tax collection by the BIR amounted to only P333 billion from January to June, falling short by P48 billion against the goal of P357 billion for the first half. Similarly, Customs collected only P96.3 billion in taxes and duties, or a P11-billion shortfall from its target of P285.2 billion for the first half.

But Teves said that despite the breaching of the deficit target for the first half, the government can still attain the goal of reducing the budget

» PONTEV, B2

Gov't stake in Meralco now worth ₱11B

THE GOVERNMENT WILL RAISE about P11 billion in additional revenues if it would sell its shares in Manila Electric Co. at current market prices, more than double the P5.5-billion estimate two months ago.

Still, the Department of Finance said it expected the share price of Meralco to increase in the next few months, enough reason why the government should not hurry the privatization of its equity stake in the utility firm.

The national government has a 12 percent stake in Meralco. The DOF said that last May Meralco shares were worth about P50 a share, but the price has increased to over P53 a share this month.

A finance official in charge of privatization noted that there was a pending request before the Energy Regulatory Commission for Meralco to raise electricity rates. Should the request be granted, the official said Meralco's share price might go up some more.

"If we [DOF] were asked if there is still room for the price to go up, then we would say 'yes'," the official told reporters. "That is why it is easy to justify not to immediately sell the Meralco shares."

— Michelle V. Remo

IN THIS ISSUE

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■ **RP seen becoming** Asia's franchising hub /B3

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. What are Floating Rate Corporate Bonds?

These bonds are the indebtedness or borrowings of private corporations like FMIC that has an interest rate that changes depending on the prevailing market interest rates. This "changing" or "floating" interest rate is "benchmarked" or based on a published interest rate like the Government's treasury bill rates. A floating rate bond normally has an interest rate that is an aggregate of the published treasury bill rate PLUS a certain premium.

2. Why invest in Floating Rate Corporate Bonds?

A floating rate bond provides the investor from interest rate volatility since it moves with the prevailing market rates. This is most beneficial to the investor during times of increasing interest rates like now.

3. Who can purchase the Floating Rate Corporate Bonds?

Any individual or corporate entity can purchase the Bonds, subject to the submission and approval of the documents required by the Registrar.

4. How does an investor participate in the Public Offer?

The Bonds will be offered within a given fixed period. During this, the investor simply calls an FMIC Marketing Officer to indicate a firm commitment to buy the bonds.

Participation is by submission of (1) a fully filled-up Application to Purchase, (2) fully filled-up Investor Registration Form and Signature Card, and (3) required documents by the Registry i.e. photocopy of IDs for individuals, standard corporate documents for corporate buyers.

5. What is an investor's proof of ownership?

A confirmation of an investor's participation is evidenced by a Registry Confirmation issued by the Registrar. Upon acceptance of an Application to Purchase, a receiving copy shall be given to the investor while the Registry Confirmation is released by the Registrar within 7-10 working days from the issue date. The best evidence of ownership still be the registry book maintained by the Registrar.

6. Can the bonds be pre-terminated?

The bonds cannot be pre-terminated by the bondholders as per BSP regulations. However, investors can sell the Bonds in the secondary market through FMIC, as the Market Maker.

PNB, Allied Bank merger a 'done deal'

By Michelle V. Rivera

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL BANK AND Allied Bank, both controlled by tycoon Lucio Tan, have agreed to merge.

PNB president Oscar Bunsie Moreno said executives of PNB and Allied Bank have reached an agreement that a merger would be beneficial to both banks and the country's entire financial sector.

Moreno said the only hurdle to the merger was the pending legal dispute between Allied Bank and the government, which is resisting after a block of shares held by Tan in the belief that it was ill-gotten.

The Supreme Court ruled earlier that the shares being questioned were owned by Tan, but the government challenged this with a motion for reconsideration.

Moreno said the planned merger could not push through until the Supreme Court has decided on the motion for reconsideration.

"Between the two banks, the merger is already a done deal. But we don't know how long it will take the Supreme Court to make a decision," Moreno told reporters in an outside interview.

The PNB official said the two banks were already in the process of discussing the terms of the merger, which he said could be done immediately after the Supreme Court hands a ruling.

He said the banks would consult their stockholders as to who should be the surviving entity. But Moreno added that the merged entity would not drop the words "Philippine" and "National," saying an bank is likely to ever again get such a name that is representative of the country.

PNB is the country's sixth-biggest bank in terms of assets, and a leader in servicing overseas Filipino workers with the huge volume of remittances sent through it.

On the other hand, Allied is a commercial bank whose services are geared mainly to affluent Chinese-Filipinos customers.

A merger between the two banks will create the fourth-biggest bank in the country in terms of assets, as of the first quarter, combined assets of the two banks were estimated at P397.35 billion.

PNB earlier announced that it has paid the P6.1 billion worth of outstanding liabilities it had with Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp., formally completing its rehabilitation program.

PNB went under a rehabilitation plan in late 2000 due to liquidity problems. PDIC extended a P28.8 billion financial assistance to the bank to cover huge withdrawals.

Moreno said that following its rehabilitation, PNB's good now sees an annual growth in its income and improve its return on equity to between 15 and 20 percent.

In the first quarter, PNB reported a net income of P906.3 million, 56 percent higher than that of the same period last year. PNB targets to earn a net income of P 1 billion this year, Moreno said.

The PNB president said the bank has about P1.2 billion worth of non-performing loans, translating into an NPL ratio of 10.6 percent. He said the bank expects to sell anywhere between P1 billion and P5 billion worth of NPLs this year to reduce its NPL ratio to a single-digit level.

Banks just waiting for SC decision on ill-gotten wealth suit

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Rid my lips

BREAKTIME

Comrade Al Asmad III

WHO HAS IT TIME FOR MONOTHEISM, moans, that cute administration is sending Executive Secretary Edwardo Ermita packing out of the Palace.

Ermita supposedly is going to the grass-roots of gaining Sen. Pagsin, taking the place of current Pagsin chair Ellene Sotelino.

Hmm. Read my lips: Why would Dimitrick get rid of Ermita?

Supposedly, some kibitzing bumpkins at the Palace think Manny Ermita partly for that disaster in the mid-term elections.

The director was not the person's fault, however, and if the blame should be put on a single personality, it would have to be Dimitrick herself.

It was her popularity, or the lack of it, that weighed down on her senatorial candidates.

If Gonzalez indeed must go, as the rumor mills have it, the core administration is getting down to basics as the only administration in this country that tries it how to get rid of its underperforming performers. Take a bow—Lim, Dimitrick and Arroyo!

Under Gonzalez in the past six years, Pagsin had been breaking all-time records in profitability.

Still, Dimitrick was skeptical about the decision for a different reason.

Gonzalez is an "orig" in Dimitrick's political camp, having been involved in her gubernatorial campaigns ever since her first run for the Senate way back in 1989.

On the other hand, Ermita is a political carpetbagger from previous administrations.

Thus, it is said that Ermita has his own cabal of political hangers-on at the Palace, who had a breach with other cabals in this core administration in the mid-term elections campaign.

Hint—It had something to do with the media budget, if you know what I mean.

And so I think that, as the tension caused by time? Gloria must get rid of Gonzalez (or like that)

Unless of course Gloria's just scum (remove out of the Palace)

Shares close lower

Foreign 41

On Tuesday, the key index surged to a new closing record of 3,751.99.

The broader all-share index declined 0.03 point to 1,208.17.

Market breadth was positive with gainers outnumbering decliners 88 to 42, while 53 stocks ended flat.

Turnover dimmed to 2.4 billion shares worth 96.2 billion.

"The market drifted sideways with the US taking a holiday break while there were no fresh local leads to sustain yesterday's run-up," said Jose Mojan of AB Capital Securities.

US markets are shut Wednesday, independence day.

After bursting into uncharted territory, the market had to consolidate as it needs a more comfortable support level," said Bernard Bacungan of Westlink Global Securities.

Investors have switched to small-cap oil-issue scrips that have fallen sharply in recent sessions, Bacungan said. "Players are shopping back into second and third-line issues while blue chips seem to be consolidating."

Ayala Corp. led advancers while market leader Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) retreated. Ayala added P10 to P365 while PLDT lost P10 to P2,600.

AFP

RP seen becoming Asia's franchising hub

GMA VISITS NESTLÉ LIPA FACTORY
President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, accompanied by Trade Secretary Peter Favila, inspects a line of breakfast cereals at the Lipa City factory of Nestlé Philippines Inc. (NPI) during a recent visit. The factory, which serves as Nestlé's Asean source for breakfast cereals, provides direct and indirect employment to thousands in the area. It exported some P1.3 billion worth of breakfast cereals to other Asian markets in 2006.

Increased export of managers to train, oversee and support franchisees expected

By Russel M. Dominguez

THE COUNTRY IS EXPECTED TO BE... some an Asian hub for franchising considering its deep pool of franchise executives and the abundance here of unique business models.

According to the Philippine Franchise Association, new franchise concepts would emerge in the region as countries gear toward free market economies.

PFA said franchising had become the most popular strategy for pursuing a business as it offered new business owners the best possible chance of succeeding with the least risk.

Sonnie Lee, PFA chair emeritus, said the number of franchisor-owned local grocery chains eight years to 981 this year from 113 in 1991.

Lee was speaking at yesterday's opening of the two-day 13th Philippine International Franchise Conference being held at the Dusit Hotel Nikko in Makati City.

"Locally developed franchise concepts have grown in an amazing rate, averaging 23 percent yearly," Lee said. "Many of these local franchises have been so successful and perhaps very competitive that they have displayed a new-found confidence in the face of foreign franchise concepts," he added.

In between Asia, Lee said the Philippines had the highest number of franchisees despite its low per capita GDP (gross domestic product) of $1,000.

Regional economic leader Singapore, which has 20 times per capita income, has less than half the number of stores. Indonesia, three are 420 franchises; Thailand, 375; and Malaysia 300.

"Perhaps a huge and growing population and a growing economy are the foundations for the continued development of franchising in the country," Lee said.

Also, Lee said the vibrant franchising industry here had given local entrepreneurs the experience and confidence to go overseas and expand.

According to PFA forecasts, franchising would be the benchmark business of the century. It is expected to help improve national incomes in Asia, especially in countries that were considered low income like the Philippines.

PFA said more and more business people and professionals were going into franchising while more and more home-grown franchisors were expected to expand overseas.

The initial drive would be to concentrate with large populations of migrant workers like overseas Filipino workers, students or other destinations.

PFA said franchising would be a top dollar venture for the Philippines as the country would integrate top management personnel who would train, oversee and support foreign franchisees.

PFA data show that domestic franchising sales account for about 1.2 percent of GDP and represent 28 percent of total retail sales.

Shell clinches P556-M Napocor lube oil contract

By Abigail L. Ho

PILIPINAS SHELL PETROLEUM CORP. HAS secured a P556-million contract to supply turbine oil to National Power Corp.'s power plants and power barges.

Under the recently signed contract, Shell would supply and deliver 6.5 million liters of engine lubricating oil to six Napocor plants located in the mini-power grid as well as to 62 smaller power plants and barges under Napocor's Small Power Utilities Group.

The lubricating oil would be transported in 20-liter pails, representing about 75 percent of Napocor's total lubricating oil requirement from the year to 2009.

Shell's previous lubricating oil supply contract with Napocor covered only 17 percent of its total requirements.

Power plants and barges included in Shell's contract are the Diesel Power Plants 1 and 2, Power Barges 101, 102, and 103, Aliaga Power, and Mt. Kitanglad Corp.

Before the award of the contract, Napocor held on March 23 a bidding for the supply and delivery of 6.25 million liters of engine lubricating oil for 137 delivery points. The approved budget for the entire supply was pleaded at P1.14 billion.

Apart from Shell, four other firms participated in the bidding: Petron Corp., Chevron Philippines Inc., PTT Philippines Corp. and Filipinas Petroleum Inc.

Of the bidders, Chevron entered the second biggest share of the total supply requirement, with a total bid for 1.37 million liters of lubricating oil worth P 185.3 million.

Petron secured bid of 1.11 million liters for 1.17 million liters, while PTT got P5.86 million contract for 36,400 liters of engine lubricating oil.

Philex gold, copper output hits P1B

By Amy R. Remo

PHILEX MINING CORP. SAID IT HAS produced about 91,164 billion worth of gold and copper last month.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Philex Chair and CEO Pedro M. Roxas and Philex director/CFO/COO dry metric tons of copper and gold ore to the Benger floatation facilities for treatment.

This resulted in some 6,754 dry metric tons of copper concentrates with 26.34 percent copper, 61.09 grams per dry metric ton of gold and 18.94 grams per dry metric ton of silver.

The estimated gross value of the output was based on prevailing market prices.

According to the disclosure, this lot contained 3.92 million pounds of copper, 13,407 ounces of gold and 12,817 ounces of silver.

The company's first shipment, made on June 30, carried 4,304 dry metric tons of copper concentrates worth P762 million. It contained about 2.9 million pounds of copper and 9,006 ounces of gold.

In March, Philex shipped P721 million worth of gold and copper.

The amount came from the sale of 6,626 dry metric tons of copper concentrates to J.D. Marubeni.

SEC OKs Aboitiz firms' merger

By Ben T. Chiongbian

ABOITIZ TRANSPORT SYSTEMS CORP. IS well on its way to solidifying its supply chain management operations as it obtains government approval for the merger of subsidiaries Aboitiz One Inc. and Aboitiz Logistics Inc. (ALI).

SEC yesterday told the Philippine Stock Exchange that Asian would be the surviving entity, as approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Asian is a one-stop shop logistics solutions and transportation services provider in the Philippines. It is engaged in the business of inland and sea transportation, including the carrying and transporting of goods and cargo.

ALI provides various supply chain management and logistics services such as freight forwarding, customers' yard management, warehousing and distribution, as well as trucking.

ALI launches Pampanga project

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

ayala land inc. (ali) yesterday launched its 40-hectare residential and mall development project in Angeles City, Pampanga.

The P1.6-billion project, dubbed Marquee Angeles City, will consist of a 10-hectare subdivision called Marquee Place and a commercial center called "G Shopping."

Of the project cost, P1.4 billion will be spent for the mall and P700 million will be used to develop residential subdivisions.

"The market [in Pampanga] is ready for this. You see BMW dealerships there, you see malls there, you see rich people—in Pampanga! are looking for a more cosmopolitan product. We felt that in terms of timing, we are facing a market that is ready for this," ALI president Jaime Ayala said.

Marquee is Ayala's first development project in the region that fully integrates an upscale residential community with a retail component of an Ayala mall.

Commercial Center Executive, a unit of ALI, will undertake the development of Marquee Place.

CE president Jose Arnaldo said for packages ranging from P5,000 to P11,000 per square meter, in P2.4 million to P5.4 million per unit for 240- to 400-square-meter lots.

Arnaldo said that for the first phase of Marquee Place, CE has pre-sold 90 percent or 251 lots out of 280 lots offered. Another 300 lots will be offered in the next phase.

G Shopping spans 72,000 square meters to open from the next to the mall and will open by the first half of 2009, Ayala said. It will offer a myriad of choices of local and international brands for shopping, dining and entertainment.

Marquee Angeles joins Ayala Land's four leisure project south of Manila, the Arvo Cove in Batam.

6-month budget ...

From page B1

deficit to P63 billion this year and to post a balanced budget by next year.

He said the government would beef up its efforts to privatize non-core assets, including the shares in Initial Corp. and Philippine National Oil Co.-Energy Development Corp., to make up for the shortfalls in tax and non-collections by the BIR and the BOC.

The government expects to raise P68 billion from its 24-percent stake in SMC and receive P63 billion from its remaining 60-percent stake in PNOC-EDC.

Teves earlier admitted that the failure of the BIR and the BOC to meet their collection goals in the first half has weakened the government's finances with no less than the economic recovery at stake.

In a speech on Monday, Teves exhorted the BIR's revenue district officers to reschedule their offices to collect more taxes or risk losing the business sector's newly-found confidence.

"We have a very serious situation," he said. "We have a tremendous challenge."

Teves made his remarks at the collection summit for new BIR officers in charge (OICs). Mr. Teves, who has taken over the reins of the government's biggest revenue agency after his predecessor, Jose Maria Buling, was sacked for failing to meet collection goals in the first five months of 2007.

"Since this BIR accounts for more than 70 percent of government revenues, [the] collection performance is closely monitored not just by the financial markets domestically, but by international observers as well," he said.

The tax agency's shortfall has already pushed up the government's benchmark treasury bill rate during yesterday's auction, thanks fed up the rates in anticipation of greater demand for cash to fund the auction spending programs of the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"While encouraging BIR officials to collect more taxes, the Treasury must also look at ways in the agency's declining efficiency, which became evident in the first half of the year, despite the boost provided by the [Expanded Value-Added Tax] law.

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People, Events & Products

Edna Arles Espinosa

Coleman sends climbers to Everest

LEADING OUTDOOR INNOVATOR COLEMAN, continuing to encourage people to "go outside" by sponsoring Mount Everest climbers from around the globe.

A Filipina team, two Malaysian groups, as well as six Americans scaled the 8,848-meter fully-stocked Everest this season with the help of Coleman's expert outdoor equipment.

One to prove that the Filipino woman can do it, the trio of Noelle Wenceslao, Carina Dizon-Gordon, and Janet Salumbides successfully reached the summit on May 16, 2007. The team took with them outdoor Coleman products including tents and sleeping pads.

They are the first Filipino women and the first Southeast Asian women to conquer Mt. Everest.

"Nadiet na ng Pinoy ang tuktok ng mundo!"

This was Noelle Wenceslao's jubilant cry upon reaching the summit of the highest point in the world.

"We are not different from other Filipinos, we are normal Filipinos. We don't have special skills, special talents, or special anything. We just want to show that we are normal people, but we can dare to do something that seems impossible and we will make it possible," shares Wenceslao.

The 3 Filipino climbers set a record-world record for being the first women in the world to ever traverse or cross the highest mountain in the world. This feat has only been accomplished by a handful, all of them male climbers.

From neighboring Malaysia, T. Ravichandran accompanied by 6 climb Everest from its north side (the reverse of the Philippine team's) with the support of Coleman's specialist equipment. Last year Ravichandran climbed the peak from the south side in aid of charity using Coleman tents, sleeping bags, lights and accessories for his training. He successfully reached the peak of Everest on May 20, 2007.

Also from Malaysia, Mistira Ahmad, 25, became the first Malaysian woman to reach the summit of Everest. Together with five other members, the group reached the peak of Everest on May 13, 2007.

Meanwhile, an outdoor ambassador from the opposite side of the globe also took on the Everest adventure in support of the "nature deficit" among children.

Designed to motivate kids to get outdoors, the 2007 Coleman Everest 3.5 Challenge had Jason Lee Scott, son of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and veteran mountaineer, Mike Reagan.

Hungry to reach Everest a variety of technical Coleman Equipment products including stoves, lanterns, tents, and sleeping bags were made for extreme environments. While Reagan successfully reached the summit on May 20, 2007.

High up in the tallest peak in the world, he turned his hands which and more Coleman products suited up to its reputations of being the outdoor equipment that's unbelievably tough.

Together with Coleman, three individuals from opposite sides of the globe have successfully reached the top of the world.

Coleman is exclusively distributed by Rosa Global Inc located at Nueve ave. Bellanar Bio, Mandaluyong City Tel no. 634-8687.

TM, JULIE'S BAKESHOP INK PARTNERSHIP

South Mobile (TM), the country's fastest growing GSM brand, in cooperation with Globe's distributor, Philwide International Inc., signed an agreement with the marketer who lead franchising company, Julie's Bakeshop for a new and exciting promo that will reward their customers. Starting July, Julie's Bakeshop in cooperation with TM, launches a new promo where customers can get their TM SIM and Pi 500 when they buy P50 worth of bread and P25 load on the free SIM at any participating bakery outlet. The promo will run in Metro Manila only. The initial launch will be in QSA, then Laoag and Baguio/Benguet for the month of August and September respectively. The promo will be participated in by Julie's more than 200 outlets nationwide. Stores during the moment signing are seated from left, Pacquito Intacchiaro's ELB Fugoso Enriquez, Globe consumer business group head Ruth Ona Siy, Philwide International Corp chair Amy Sandiseo, Standing from left, Globe's segment business head, Joey Concepcion and Julie's Franchise Corp president Cora Reyes de Veluya.

HERITAGE HOTEL MANILA HOLDS FIRE DRILL

All employees of the Heritage Hotel as well as its Restaurant and five other tenant participated in a fire drill by the hotel's Fire Prevention and Disaster Preparedness Team.

The activity, observed in photo (from left) MTC Inspector Lino Andrino, Pasay City Fire Station; Ariel Galicia, engineer, Heritage Hotel, chief-fired starting Unit, fire marshal; and Pasay City Fire Station; Rose Santiago, chief engineer, Heritage Hotel, Inc.; Antonio Magsaysay, director of human resources, Heritage Hotel; Eddie Tan, general manager, Heritage Hotel; evacuation director, Pasay City Fire Station; John de Pedro, fourteen officer, Department of Tourism; and Ma. Gervacio, marketing communications manager, Heritage Hotel.

SAVE FUEL, SAVE THE PLANET

A breakthrough liquid fuel performance enhancing additive which promises to save you fuel and save the planet by reducing pollutant from your machine, doesn't it? Well Earth with industrial global warming emissions was created by launched at the La Pueblo, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay. Save-Fuel, Save The Planet, the good thing that had just been launched by Unilever ORC features a Middle-grid-free syrup with a mild moisturizer to retain oil, fine product blends, and bottleneck of product bottlenecks. Throughout the evening, can enjoy entertainment from guests including Mary Mallalla and music spanning the 60s to the 70s. Headquartered at Unit 1201-09, Cityland Condominium, 10 Viola Costa, Salcedo Village, Makati and with trade ambitions at areas with Unilever Philippines, Inc. (formerly known as Oleochemicals Inc. got the exclusive right to market and distribute the product in the Philippines from ICI-based Essentially Power Industries International Limited (EPIL), an integrated marketing company offering an exclusive line of cutting-edge, quality products. Shown on photo (below) to (from left) Oleochemicals director Raymond Tanguian and Essentially Power Philippines director Charlie Jose. Others included dressed as '60s jazz-stylists (front entrance), is EPI MD Consultant and CEO Dan James O'Neill.

Filipina creativity brings home the gold

A PRIDE COMPANY CHARGED BY A FILIPINA creative team has won its most impressive award to date: a coveted Gold Statue in the Clio Awards, a "singular benchmark of creative excellence recognizing the most outstanding advertising campaigns in the world." Globe executive director, Leigh Reyes, flew to Miami to accept the coveted statue at the historic Jackie Gleason Auditorium in South Beach, Florida, USA.

Globe public service joint jobs for Interpublic International of Malaysia, continue to garner accolades in the world's prestigious (and toughest) advertising competitions. Globe's award-winning campaign makes innovative creative use of the most widely used mobile phone technology in the country, the text message. To date, the work has been recognized with a Gold and Silver in the Mobile Phone Awards, its Bronze win in ORAS and Finalist status in The One Show and Asian Media Spikes. The campaign is also on many top Asian Cannes advertising festival, whose results will be announced mid-June.

This Philippines and Visit Malaysia joined forces in being the campaign to life. Interpublic Worldwide, a volunteer organization of women working to improve the lives of women and girls around the world, launched its anti-violence campaign in 2006. Interpublic International Region of Malaysia approached Visit Malaysia for help. Where does in the campaign (an effort across three PMC offices, including Singapore), they lost it their full support.

The creative team, Leigh Reyes and Jake Uy launched the campaign on the internet before the other award-winning public service ad for Grey-ola Children's Services, which took home two golds from the 2006 London International Advertising Awards and made it to the Clio shortlist in 2007.

In the past three years, VMI has received recognitions from its peers in the advertising industry and its own clients. United Laboratories (Unilab) holds the three awards for its partners annually, and VMI has been awarded a Special Citation, Best Accounts Team and Best Creative Team on separate occasions in the past two years. Industry awards include the Ad Congress Araw Awards, the Creative Guild (Ace) for Three Awards, Anak Ng Ilo Affair and Media Spikes.

VMI Philippines' president and CEO Chiqui Lanuzo says, "Winning the Philippines' first Gold Clio is fantastic. It's also positively inspiring. Even from a wider perspective, it says Philippine creative talent is right up there with the best the world has to offer. This is the same world-class talent working for our clients' brands every day." She continues, "VMI Philippines is so amazing to work that our present winners. In fact, five out of the six members of our Management Committee are winners. The first patriotic campaign is a golden example of the power of winners working together to make a difference in the world."

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Costa D' Oro's Olivero at Wolso

FOR MORE THAN 40 YEARS COSTA D'ORO SPIN has been a household name in the country, being widely available since Costa D' Oro's Olivero still put the icing on this over 700 products to be displayed at the forthcoming World's Food Taipei (Wolso) 2007, the 7th International Exposition on Merchandise Food, Beverage, Technology and Machinery slated Aug. 1 – 4, at the World Trade Center, Manila, Philippines. Wolso 2007 is the country's biggest and most comprehensive food and beverage trade show for the year. For more information call Phoenix Events Plus Group Inc at (632) 634-7663 or 63, 435-4350 and 435-8903, e-mail: info@EPG.com.ph, website: www.wolso.com.

Design your Tamagotchi V4

TAMAGOTCHI FANS GET IN BACK ON WITH LATEST VERSION, THE TAMAGOTCHI V4, that lets players be in control of their future of their virtual pets by playing various games and going to school to learn various skills pets which can be used to choose a job like rock star, fashion designer, doctor and much more. Love doesn't of playing with your self-designed Tamagotchi? This July, Bandai, the makers of Tamagotchi Connections, and make it possible for lucky Tamagotchi enthusiasts who will showcase up to P5,000 worth of Bandai and Tamagotchi items. Log onto www.bandai.com.ph or www.tama.com.ph for design contest guidelines. Tamagotchi Version 4 designs contest is open to all enthusiasts from 4 to 18 years old. Deadline of submission of entries is on July 22. Judging will be held on July 23 at the Grand Atrium of Shangri-La Plaza Mall.

July Home Sale from Sunnex

THIS JULY, GIVE THE GIFT OF A HOME COVETED BY MANY. Sunnex Corporation, the country's leading furniture and appliance retailer, is offering its customers a July Home Sale. Starting July 1, Sunnex will offer its customers a July Home Sale. Starting July 1, Sunnex will offer its customers a July Home Sale. Starting July 1, Sunnex will offer

BUSINESS

Phoenix raises ₱355M from sale of shares

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

Petroleum product distributor to list shares on July 11

PETROLEUM PRODUCT DISTRIBUTOR Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc. has raised P355 million from the sale of its shares.

The public offering paves the way for the listing of its shares on the Philippine Stock Exchange next week, sources familiar with the deal said in an interview.

Phoenix Petroleum wanted selling a portion of its shares to retail investors last June 27.

The distributor sold a total of 56.25 million common shares—or 29 million new shares and 7.28 million secondary shares or those held by current shareholders—at P6.00 each.

"The market is still looking for good issues and it will be attracting others to invest, especially for the next large issues," Banco de Oro Capital & Investment Corp. president Eduardo Francisco said.

BDO Capital & Investment Corporation is the issue manager, lead and sole underwriter for the offering.

Phoenix Petroleum trades refined petroleum products, lubricants and other chemical products.

It also operates oil depots and storage facilities, mainly in Southern Philippines.

The Davao-based company's products and services are distributed under the "Phoenix Fuels/Lube" brand.

Phoenix Petroleum opened its first gas station in June 2006 in Davao del Sur.

Today, it has more than 20 retail service stations.

By end of this year, 30 more will be added, bringing the total "Phoenix Petroleum" retail service stations to 50, the company believed.

Proceeds said that local small investor demand for the company's shares was strong as Luzon-based investors bought 70 percent of the shares sold in the initial public offering.

Only 30 percent of the shares sold went to Visayas and Mindanao investors.

As a result, underwriters will conduct a post-offering lot by the Philippine Stock Exchange Committee (SEC) called "balloting," whereby an investor has a certain number of days to submit his application.

Those not selected during the balloting will get refunds, Francisco said.

The balloting will be done in the presence of representatives from the PSE, SEC and an external auditor.

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Philip Morris puts up $20-M warehouse

By Konrad M. Dominguez

CIGARETTE MANUFACTURER PHILIP Morris Philippines Manufacturing Inc. is investing $20 million to a warehouse in Subic that will store tobacco leaves from two countries by the region.

Armand C. Arteta, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority administrator, said a two-year contract with PMPM was signed last week, covering an existing warehouse.

The investment would go to the refurbishment of the structure as well as the technology to control the humidity and temperature," Arteta said.

"It's going to be practically a giant humidor," said Arteta, referring to the humidity, controlled cabinets used to store cigars.

He said the warehouse was scheduled for turnover to PMPM on Aug. 1, but that he does not know how long it would take to upgrade the facility and make it suitable for its new storage.

Arteta added that PMPM was looking for a suitable site for a planned regional storage hub for leaf tobacco, for which the company was prepared to spend $80 million.

"Subic is competing with a possible site in Singapore, but any hope that this new investment provides an advantage," he said.

"If this small warehouse would turn out a good facility, it would only mean to be expanded if it makes a profit buh," he added.

Bay Area development Arteta assured that because of the rules of the Subic Bay Golf and Country Club Inc. were revising "misleading information" to elicit favorable Costa Tolentino members and the general public.

"There are discriminating statements which say that the land issues that led to the 1996 takeover of the golf course facility in 1997," Arteta said.

He said the takeover was made due to the former operator's failure to pay over $37 million in rental fees as of March 31, 2007.

Arteta added that Universal Entertainment Group (UEG), which operated the club, failed to remit obligations amounting to over $12 million as of October 2006.

He said other undelivered obligations include the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the golf course into a first class amateur Grand course in accordance with PGA standards, and the construction of a new Class clubhouse, 9-hole, 180-hectare complex, 30 villas and five-star hotel resort.

"Further improvements in the golf course which remain undelivered are the construction of additional nine holes to the course, construction of the Driving Range for additional nine holes and the construction of additional 200 villas, which were secured by a performance guaranty of $13.5 million," Arteta said.

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Cooking gas prices to decline, DOE says

By Abigail L. Ho

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY expects cooking gas prices to decrease soon. Following the drop in the international contract price of liquefied petroleum gas by $17 a metric ton this month.

According to DOE data, the international contract price of LPG went down to only $600 a metric ton in July from $616 a MT in June.

In response, Isak Supplier Autogas would cut LPG prices by 14 centavos a kilogram at 12:01 a.m. today.

"I welcome the move of Autogas for instituting implementing the rollback in the LPG prices. We hope that oil majors and other independent players will immediately follow the lead of Autogas," Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said in a statement yesterday.

Since the start of the year, LPG prices have gone up five times by a total of P1.50 a kilo, but have also gone down four times for a total of P2.20 a kilo, including VAT.

International prices remained volatile, however, Lotilla said.

In a related development, the DOE urged consumers to buy their LPG only from authorized dealers and retail outlets, to prevent LPG-related accident from taking place.

He said those bought from illegal refilleries—or those that did not conform with safety standards and did not have safety features—could cause damage to property, injuries and even death.

"Prices of crude and other petroleum products, including LPG, in the international market are very volatile. It is only right that consumers get their money's worth in buying these products, most especially LPG," he said.

He also urged the LPG Industry Association, Confederation of LPG Refillers, LPG Refillers Association and the LPG Distributors Association to assure that their respective members are not engaged in any malpractice such as underfilling, use of substandard LPG tanks and tampering of cylinders.

Study on Aboitiz Subic coal plant due in Q3

ABOITIZ POWER CORP. EXpects the feasibility study on a coal-fired power plant to be completed within the year.

Aboitiz Power plans to put up the plant in the Subic Bay Freeport Zone together with Taiwan Co-Generation International Corp.

According to the preliminary prospectus for the company's share offering, the plant would have an installed capacity of between 150 megawatts (MW) and 300 MW.

The project would be implemented by Redondo Peninsula Energy Inc., a joint venture company between Aboitiz Power and Taiwan Co-Generation.

Just last February, Aboitiz Power entered into a memorandum of agreement with Taiwan Co-Gen, of which for the conduct of a feasibility study on the project.

Under the terms of this agreement, the parties agree to form a joint venture company to implement the project in the event it is determined to be feasible, in which case the joint venture company will build, own and operate the proposed power plant, with each party owning 50 percent of the joint venture company" the prospectus stated.

"Subject equity participants in the joint venture company may be allowed, with the equity ownership of each party being equally diluted by the entry of any new equity partner/s, if needed."

All project development costs for the proposed power plant would be split evenly between Aboitiz Power and Taiwan Co-Generation.

Taiwan Co-Generation in July 2006 entered into a memorandum of understanding with the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority to reserve for two years a 20-hectare lot to be used as the site for the proposed plant and another 20-hectare lot to be used as an ash pond.

These parcels of land would be leased at an agreed rate of $1.50 a square meter for 50 years, to be paid in 10 equal from year installments.

The first installment would be paid upon the signing of any lease agreement with SBMA.

The joint venture did not indicate when it plans for the actual implementation of the project.

Abigail L. Ho

CHEF Rodolfo Agbilay

LIFESTYLE

TUESDAY FITNESS • WEDNESDAY 3BU • THURSDAY FOOD • FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY

Fil-Am chef interprets Filipino food

COUNTRY COOKING
Micky Fenix

MY FRIEND SORI WRITES from a Filipino emigration to San Francisco says and sure I can there, I should interview Fil-Am chefs who are making waves in the West Coast.

I will have to write her that one of them was here recently and cooked for a week at Bed at Dampa La Mahalo.

Los Angeles-based chef Rodolfo Agbilay's name rushes him undeniably Filipino. He was born here but was brought to Hawaii at age one by his immigrant parents. He started cooks until he was 12 then did not come home for several years, but his family always ate Filipino food.

In fact, dinner was a separate affair for his cooking and the way their appetizer made me curious right away. But the words "cactus of beef lalaman" also turned on my "human" warning signs.

Perhaps last because a bad word ever since my immigrant uncle tried to pass off their allergies as being related to having cactus. What you usually get is a confusing mix of flavors and ingredients that don't mesh.

When the order came, it was beef lechon all right in reddish seconds on top of nice (but looked like) nopal or fibrous because of the presentation.

It was topped by a concoction called *kaong* pesto, chopped pepper and lemon grass, perhaps some lime zest.

The rice was punched according to the menu and when Agbilay arrived, I told him its texture was like hard pancit as they used bone it went well with the beef cheeks. He said the original recipe had tuna (what beef when he said beef, it worked.

Pinoy 'satay'

The beef medallion were as appetizers. Beef tenderloin was skewered and its edible Filipino-ity. It came with leftover bistec making it more Vietnamese. The dipping sauce was a mix of calamansi and pepper. If it were to be Filipino, they would have used *kalamansi* instead of soy or to be true to its satay billing, it should have the reddish-tomato sauce of Jolo satay.

Calamansi became the conversation piece. Known as Filipino lime abroad, many chefs don't know it or that it has been in preeminence like the Japanese yuzu, a citrus whose flavor is a mix of grapefruit with hints of Mandarin orange.

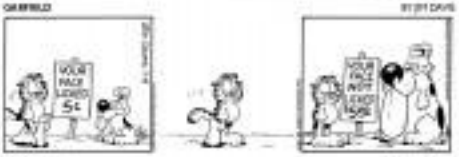
I told Agbilay that in Southeast Asia, the calamansi area also used in some of the cooking, recipes for it was Filipino cuisine.

Agbilay said it's difficult to get calamansi in LA. The citrus is grown mostly for home consumption and is a seller sold. It is given to him of weekend farmers' markets by Filipino-American who have become his friends.

I think the true Pinoy way to the next dish—seared foie gras served on a rice pudding with gata and some caramelized mango on the side. The rice pudding had a consistency of an arancini or risotto, the Portuguese rice blanca, as it melted in the mouth with the foie.

"BBQ" crusted roasted sea bass

GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS

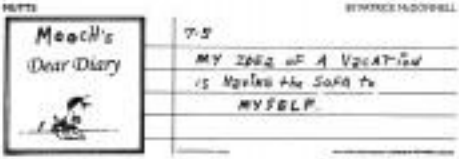


A.LIEN — BY JOS ARBEN

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

PUGAD BABOY — BY NIK JUNIOR

PEPPERMINT PATTY — BY PATRICK MCDONNELL



UNDERNUTS — BY ELIZABETH CHONGCO

ATOMIC ANT AND MOUSY — BY LYNN GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY — BY CRISTOPHER PARAJON

BIG MACHINE — BY MARK ARBEN

MAGANDAMOS — BY JONNETTE DIO

TULDOK — BY PAPA AND TATUM PALAMBRE JUNE

BEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku — by Dave Green

		5	2					
		1	3			7		
	8						9	2
			6		3		2	8
6	7		9		5			
3	5						8	
		9			1	4		
					7	5		

Difficulty Level ★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

8	9	2	1	3	4	5	6	7
1	5	7	9	8	6	2	4	3
3	4	6	2	5	7	9	1	8
7	6	5	3	4	9	1	2	8
9	2	1	8	6	2	7	5	4
2	8	4	5	7	1	3	9	6
6	1	9	7	2	8	4	3	5
5	2	8	4	9	3	6	7	1
4	7	3	6	1	5	8	9	2

Difficulty Level ★★★

PRINCE of Jaipur specializes in North Indian cuisine. Its menu includes Lamb Biryani, which is cooked with spices and seasonings and mixed with Basmati rice. Prince of Jaipur is at Eastwood City. Tomas Cloma, City. Phone 1-234-5678 or visit 09171-BENCITY.

BLACKBEARD'S Seafood Island has opened in Eastwood City, Libis. A popular dish is the Grilled Hawaiian Ulang. Other favorites include the Boodle Feast, Seafood and Crab dishes. Call 913-5761, 4867693 or 911-2289.

CARLO'S PIZZA offers 17 kinds of pizza including the Capricciosa Pizza, one of the restaurant's bestsellers. Carlo's Pizza outlets are at SM Hennessy, Paranaque, SM Baguio, Camp John Hay and Tagaytay.

DINING OUT

A 'paluto' seaside resto

THE SEASIDE COMPLEX ON MACAPAGAL Boulevard, Pasay, holds an ever-and-ever of eclectic restaurants, by-mean is one of the restaurants in the sun-market-cum-kitchen-style seafood dining complex. Owned by Bobby Delicafio, Nenet Richards and Liza Avila-Pilapil is the name Ig-Isaac was derived from Ignac a family-owned fish farm. Its specialties are Ginataang Halabong Puso, Adobong Pusit Itam in Its Own Ink, Gorgonzola Alfredo and Bahian Soup. Ignacio is open every day, 10 a.m. - 12 mn. Call 4213000, 0928-1112345 or 0939-6068826.

PERLAS across from Ocean mansions and Italian Forno brings Filipino flavors to Binondo. Served Tampo del Pato, Bulgogi with Pan de Sal, Pancit Canton Guisado and Ginataang Langka. Call 2422500.

THE MANDARIN HOTEL MANILA'S new executive chef, Sutee Vichit offering "Royal Thai Feast" until July 14 at the Restaurant Nuevo. Price is P1500 per person either for buffet lunch or dinner. Dishes include Tom Yum Kung (Spicy Shrimp Soup), Pad Thai (Fried Noodles), Thai Style Kaeng Khiao Wan Kai (Green Chicken Curry), Kaeng Phet Pet Yang (Roast Duck Curry), Yam Wut (Spicy Beef Salad), and Papaya Salad. Call 8160888 or e-mail mnlsales@mandarinoriental.com.

MANILA Pavilion's Pastry Section comes with Chef Leo's Spanish Seafood Platter (Deep Golden Shell) for Pax. Roasted Pigeon with Golden Garlic Bolognese Crab with Cream Leeks, Fine Noodle with Sautéed Wong Bok, Braised Royal Duck with Bean Curd, and Double Boiled Abalone. Call 8381377 Friends 2585 and 2583.

RUBAIB offers Cold Samplers: Nasi Salad, California Maki for P50. Nasi Salad, Tuna Sushi for P70. Mixed Sushi Sampler Tuna with special serving for P170. Bring Bob-chopped sweet potatoes—cucumber and shredded lapu-cabbage to sum for P180 (for pickers) and P85 (two pieces at 40 pcs. nuggets).

Beef recipes and sandwiches

THE REGENT SERVICE SCHOOL OF Culinary Arts offers the following classes:

July 6: Delicious Beef Recipes at Half-the Price (all menu)—Asian Beef Rolls Coffee-crusted Beef Tenderloin Steak crusted Beef Salad Beef Belly; Whole Marinated Sirloin Tenderloin Roast with two glazes and side dishes. Bonus: Orange Beef Soup (Sicily) with Meatball Stew.

July 7: Soup, Salad and Grilled Sandwich Buffet (Special menu, all types—Grilled Sandwiches (bonus on the Spot; Mini Bacon Beef and Cheese, Mushroom and Grilled Cheese, Giant Deli Sandwich, Grilled Vegetable, Turkey Apple, Grilled Chicken and Sun-dried Tomato. Salad Bar—Two dressings. Soups: Cold Cucumber Melon, Beef-Stew Clam Chowder Beef, Vegetable and Barley, Beef Stew Mushroom Soup.

July 9: All About Ribs—Delicious Lamb Spare-rib Barbecue, Cinnamon Lamb Ribs, Cordillera-Style Chicken Spare-ribs), The Best Basted Chicken Ribs, Asian-Style Steak Ribs, Japanese Miso Baby Back Ribs.

July 13: Noodle Meals '07 (all new)—Mixed Greens with Roasted Noodle, Beef-Stew Angus Beef Short Ribs Cooked Pho Ho Style (Viet. version) with condiments, Wagyu Beef Chorizi Risotto with Cold Noodle Salad, Crisp Rosemarie Pagoon with Potato, Sun-crusted Chicken with Yo ki Soba.

Call 8189950, 817-8000 or 8183152.

Healthy meals

Maya Kitchen offers Hearty Health by Blind Symphony, 2-6 p.m., July 7.

"Cake Decorating," 9 a.m.-4 p.m., July 5-6, will cover the fundamentals.

"Basic Culinary," 9 a.m.-3 p.m., July 13-15, will teach proper hygiene, sanitation and safety use.

"Chinese Snacks," 2-6 p.m., July 14, will include, among others, Siopao, Siomai, Giapao, Hopia and Siam Pao.

"Fundamentals of Bakery Production," 9 a.m.-5 p.m., July 17-19, covers standard baking techniques. Maya Kitchen is at 8/C Liberty Bldg., A. Arnaiz Avenue, Makati. Call 8161185, 8925611 loc. 108. E-mail cakeislove@infonace-info.com.ph.

Fil-Am chef interprets Filipino food

From page D

Engineer chef

Even if Agilbol's father was a cook in the navy, the culinary arts were never considered a proper career in his family as he got a degree in engineering in the University of California Los Angeles.

But he knew he liked to cook as he enrolled at the City College of San Francisco Hotel and Restaurant Program. After graduation, his vendors still had no experience in the fine-dining and five-diamond Greenbrier Resort in West Virginia.

In one of the articles about him, chef Agilbol is quoted describing Greenbrier as a "culinary boot camp." There had to be 5,000 orders a night, until one a "devastating 15-course meal."

The hotelier Boston came later when he worked in San Francisco institutions like the Fess Asian E & O Trading Company and the French resto Postrio and Magic Flute. He brought Asian fusion to the five restaurant where he became executive chef, fire, and in his own Fi Cuisine.

Making a name in both, he was invited to cook at the James Beard House dinner in 2004 (James Beard was a revered American chef and food writer whose home has been preserved and serves as the office of the James Beard Foundation).

After the Asia gene, he said the new course was a take on the... he said double-processing gastronomy.

'Guinataan' soup

What he meant was patronizing Inati-Inati, a traditional marinade food with tamarind like lemon and adobo cubes, cube hominis, sago and lechon (ground glutinous rice mixed with water and shaped into balls), boiled in session with three thickened with coconut cream. While I like eating patronizing halo-halo but, others prefer it cold, straight from the refrigerator.

The cold soup came, a bowl of cold cream with a small scoop of ube halaya like ube halaya, coco kernels and bits of soy sago mixed in. The cold soup was light and refreshing and made one smile because the idea seemed for sure but a did mesh.

Of his entrées, we ordered the lemon grass-crusted rib-eye with cabernet glaze and the soy bean-crusted with lambert quinoa fleck crust. They were cooked well and very flavorful, but we were shocked to see of his pork belly adobo in coconut milk and the lobster ravioli adobo.

We didn't get to taste his aromatic mousse, described by one Lit reviewer as "one of the most original and tasty" desserts. It supposed to be served in hollowed out coconuts with shaved ice flavored with milk (latte) and with a raspberry sauce.

So, is Filipino food making it out there? Chef Agilbol believes although there don't have to. He mentioned that Fil-Am chefs have been infusing their menus with Filipino cooking.

Reading reviews of Fi Cuisine gave a picture of its menu that included hamachi, chicken adobo, seafood stinging, garlic noodles topped with dried shrimp paste, and crispy pata that a reviewer described as "made with fancy free-chefs pork and served with a vinegar dip calculated with his gray instead of the traditional pork and liver."

Agilbol plans to open another restaurant, this time in Seattle. The menu will be Asian but it will include only South Asian cuisines. Of course, that means it will have the cooking of his home country as interpreted by this Filipino chef.

E-mail the author at pinaybold@yahoo.com

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To my surprise, the best prawns are not only found in fancy restaurants but at Saint Luke's, too. Their patient food is exceptional so long as there are no dietary restrictions. Thanks to chef Ron Buela

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KITCHEN RESCUE
Reggie Aquino

Thank you, Mom

THE DAY WEEK MADE ME realize that every moment with those dear is precious.

My mom unfortunately suffered a heart attack. Though it could not be averted—for she refuses to have a checkup, using all her motherly authority over us, a situation we could do nothing about—God's goodness, technology and the able hands of her doctors spurred us from what could have been life's poignant reality.

Mom is 81 and, apart from her six hospital admissions in childbirth, she has relatively spent her years in good health and fabulous beauty. "Aging gracefully" is Mom personified.

Interventional cardiologist Dr. Arjen "Nap" Haan performed her angioplasty, turning the tide from critical to walking, in just two days. He did the procedure in 45 minutes in what seemed like a game room filled with monitors for viewing clogged arteries.

The task doubled as joy ranks with which Peace exercised all blockages to make way for a more iconic kind of uncontested spirit.

Along with the best cardiac surgeon, Jose de Castro, surgeon Pepito Devia and anesthesiologist Mike Lachica, Mom got the best of care.

Discoveries

Raving cooked for Mom while she was in the hospital, I was left with the hospital food duty, since I couldn't eat what I cooked.

I'd never touched hospital food till now. It was beautifully presented, looking so tempting, it deserved a shot.

Tony surprise, the best prawns are not only found in fancy restaurants but at Saint Luke's, too. Their patient food is exceptional, so long as there are no dietary restrictions. Thanks to chef Ron Buela.

• Divinely antiseptic, St. Luke's actually has clothes, a concierge service, toiletries (the best is Bot de la Oryx), a huge fully equipped hotel-like kitchen and 24-hour room service on the executive floor.

• Utmost wish for you to be confined: to try their menus. I asked if St. Luke's highly competent Medical Transport Logistics to make sure I got this recipe as I would share it with you. I also thank her for all the help.

• In case you need a midwife to care for your loved ones, Mildred Ybiog is pleasant and efficient (tel. 0905-3209697).

Heart's Delight—Prawns with Shallot Marmalade

180 g prawns, de-veined, butterfly cut
10 g each garlic, chopped, shallots, sliced
1 medium lemon
25 g grated mozzarella cheese (optional)
2 tbsp olive oil
10 g paprika
10 ml white wine
Season prawns with salt and pepper. Saute shallots in olive oil until caramelized, de-glaze with white wine, add prawns sauce.
Grill prawns and stuff with shallot mixture. Serve with sauce prawns and buttered vegetable.

Tribute

Mom is home now walking around and perfectly normal. She has resumed her daily routine, the most pressing of which are the beauty parlor and weekly facials.

Today's Kitchen Rescue is our tribute to her. Pardon me for this, but while I can and while I am gifted with primitive bliss, I must let her know how truly special she is.

Divine Mom,

To put eloquently into words what the heart so deeply feels, is an injustice. But at least, let me try...

We will never be able to thank you as we should, for we have equals yours.

For 81 years you have loved us and we know less because of you. All that is right and good in us, in fact, the best part of us, is you.

Today I laud the beauty of your person, literally and figuratively for 81, you look so good, Mother! You like beating Hair...Inc!? (sic)

Each day spent by your side is a gift and we continue to count our blessings—one by one, and slowly—and of which, you are one of heaven's greatest.

Bask in the comforting thought that you are loved more than you will ever know that you are appreciated more than we could ever truly show and, for all that you are to us, we remain forever in gratitude.

Thank you so much, Mommy, for loving us!

Three-day diet

Speaking of the heart, let's talk about the Three day Diet.

Having lost seven pounds and two inches in three days was such good news that I had to share it with you.

But, before we get all excited, I would like to thank my readers for pointing me to the web site of the American Heart Association (http://216.185.112.5/presscenter/shortfact=4751) which stated:

"The public should be aware that there are data that purport to be from the American Heart Association that are not.

"The phony diet describes a three-day menu, supposedly prescribed by the American Heart Association or by the 'Heart Association.' It includes vanilla ice cream, hot dogs, eggs and cheddar cheese.

"The diet promises a 10-pound weight loss in three days. The diet also goes by the names: Sprinkle Heart Diet, Cleveland Clinic Diet and Mayo Heart Institute Diet."

In the excitement of fitting beautifully into my jeans, nothing else seemed to matter but to spread the news. Miraculous! My sincerest apologies and many thanks to those who went out of their way to correct the diet's claims.

(Say wake! AIA may be the latest can-feeding fanaticism!

Email the author at reggieaquino@inquirer.com.ph

When shopping is everything

Get ready for the ultimate shopping extravaganza as the Hong Kong Shopping Festival from 18 June to 31 August, 2007. This year's Hong Kong Shopping Festival is more exciting than ever as it coincides with a host of celebrations marking the 10th Anniversary of the establishment of Hong Kong as a Special Administrative Region of China. Log on to our mini-website for the latest events, hot items and fabulous offers during your stay in Hong Kong or enjoy various offers and privileges. For more information, visit DiscoverHongKong.com

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ENTERTAINMENT

Edgar Brenner S. Velasco

CHEER FACTOR

Kapuso workshop graduates get to watch their own movies on the big screen

ANXIOUS: Pinggoy and Karen Gutierrez, right, on the set of "Batang Bato."

Baby makes four for Karen

Broadcast journalist Karen Davila and husband Ali Sta. Ana are expecting their second child. Davila told Inquirer Entertainment that she is on her "first trimester." It will be the couple's second child. Gretchen Diezel Joshua (right), with mom[?] is 5. "It's time to give him a brother or sister," Karen says. "I'm excited!" *Reports Sun Ologa Jr.*

GMA 7 mounts its 1st short film fest

By Reynel San Diego Jr.

THE KAPUSO NETWORK DARES TALENT DEvelopment seriously: ours Ida Henares, assistant vice president and head of GMA Artist Center (GMAAC).

"We have various workshops all year round," Henares elaborates. The newer started offering said training for comedies and sexplosive idols two years ago.

In culminating project for the Film and TV Production and Acting workshops, with direct development coordinator Cris Villafuerte, the students produced short films.

Now DMAT, in cooperation with the Independent Filmmakers Cooperative (IFC), has announced its first festival of short films, "Sindak: Sa Pagsisimula ng Indie" at Robinsons Galleria Indie Hub.

The 14 films, products of the workshops in 2006 and October 2006, and April 2007, are: "Radio," "Video," "Mga Kuwento Nang Anino," "Batang Grasa," "Otso Ako," "Sidewalk," "Kuad," "Interlude" and "In a Flash" (5 minutes.); "Ura," "Batang Bato," "Sindi," and "Hoax Improv" (30); and "Cine Con Banyo" (3).

Jenny Tomasa, events and publicity specialist, says the summer's acting students had Sandy Alaez, Gretchen Mirasol, Tina de Guzman, Bernard Santos and Sandeg, head to the theater.

The Film and TV Production workshops were handled by indie filmmakers Joe Ibal, Raymond Red, Robert Quebral, Conie Fernando and Bodo Villafania, and TV director Raul Bayona.

People's Choice

Acting workshops had 40 to 50 students each in the kids, teens and adults divisions, says Villafuerte. Film and TV Production had 35 enrollees.

The festival began yesterday and runs until July 8. Admission ticket is P100 each, good for all 14 films. Moviegoers are invited to vote for the People's Choice award in its genre and on July 8, along with students for Best Short Film, Director, Actress, Actor, Supporting Actress and Actor, Child Actress and Actor, Cinematography and Production Design.

The Real Causes of WOMEN'S HAIRLOSS

Hair can enhance or ruin a woman's appearance. Deemed her "crowning glory," thick, healthy hair strands that frame a woman's face can emphasize her beauty and youth. On the contrary, hair loss can do the exact opposite. It can make a woman appear older and less attractive, which can cause low self-esteem, depression and isolation.

There are various triggers of women's baldness. Hormonal changes by far have the biggest impact since they stimulate hair growth and cause the actual hairloss. Female Pattern Baldness (or Androgenetic alopecia) is a reaction to male hormones in the body. It is an inherited sensitivity to the effects of male hormones (androgens) on scalp hair follicles.

Stress can also be a contributing factor to women's hairloss. This leads to a severe tension in the scalp, affecting the supply of essential nutrition required for the healthy growth of hair. Hair damage from the use of hair styling treatments and other chemicals also affects the hair conditions, making the hair strands weak and causing them to break.

Swensen utilizes various treatments to help women avoid hairloss from occurring. In the case of hairloss that has already started, Swensen also has solutions to prevent it from progressing to more advanced hairloss. With Swensen, women not only get their hair back, they also look younger and better. Call Swensen today at 892-FAIR (3247) for a free consultation.

AT THE CINEMAS

GLORIETTA 1: 1 DIE HARD 4.0; 2 TRANSFORMERS; 3 DIE HARD 4.0; 4 TRINOMA

GLORIETTA 4: 1 DIE HARD 4.0; 2 TRANSFORMERS; 3 DIE HARD 4.0; 4 HOSTEL 2; 5 TRANSFORMERS; 6 DIE HARD 4.0; 7 TRANSFORMERS

GREENBELT 1: 1 TRANSFORMERS; 2 DIE HARD 4.0

GREENBELT 2: 1 TRANSFORMERS; 2 DIE HARD 4.0; 3 DIE HARD 4.0; 4 DIE HARD 4.0; 5 TRANSFORMERS

ALABANG TOWN CENTER: 1 DIE HARD 4.0; 2 DIE HARD 4.0; 3 TRANSFORMERS; 4 DIE HARD 4.0; 5 TRANSFORMERS

AYALA CENTER CEBU: 1 DIE HARD 4.0; 2 DIE HARD 4.0; 3 TRANSFORMERS; 4 TRANSFORMERS

MARKET! MARKET!: 1 DIE HARD 4.0; 2 TRINOMA; 3 TRANSFORMERS; 4 DIE HARD 4.0; 5 TRANSFORMERS

TRINOMA: 1 TRINOMA; 2 TRANSFORMERS; 3 TRANSFORMERS; 4 DIE HARD 4.0; 5 TRANSFORMERS; 6 DIE HARD 4.0; 7 DIE HARD 4.0

AT THE MALLS

Ayala Malls

Glorietta — Philippine Retailers Association Job Fair, July 5 & 6, 2007

Greenbelt — The Fashion Sale City is 70% discount from quality clothing. Greenbelt 1 & 4 atrium, July 1 to 15, 2007

Alabang Town Center — Christian Beatitude & Rachel Ann Go Live!, July 7, 2007

Ayala Center Cebu — Air Guitar Exhibit, July 1 to 15, 2007

Market! Market! — SM Appliance Madness, July 6 to 22, 2007

Christa Rich — SWEETNESS - The perfect spot for romantic, magical days! A romantic events in one stunning backdrop for May to July 2007. For bookings, pls. call 751-1852 or 757-4881

Ayala Museum — Human Anatomy: The Most Vital Organs Revealed, June 19 to Jan. 6, 2008. Museum of Philippine Art - June 19 to January 6, 2008. For more info, pls. call 757-7117 ext 21 or loc. 16 or email museum_intern@ayalamuseum.org

Tri Noma — BARBIE BIRTHDAY BASH, July 1 (3PM & 4PM) at the Activity Center; "HUMAN & RACE BLANCO EXHIBIT," July 2 to 15 (Mall Hours) at the 1st Level Exhibit Area

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Glorietta Greenbelt Ayala Malls Trinoma

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Christina in Manila

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TIYANAKS	FANTASTIC 4: SILVER SURFER	DIE HARD 4

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1 TRANSFORMERS	2 DIE HARD 4	3 FANTASTIC 4: SILVER SURFER
4 PARAISO	5 TIYANAKS	

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GALLERIA	
1 DIE HARD 4 - TVH	6 DIE HARD 4
2 DIE HARD 4	7 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 TRANSFORMERS	8 IndieBine: GMA Scrate Ang Pagsisimula sa India
4 BUG	9 PARAISO
5 TIYANAKS	10 TRANSFORMERS

ERMITA	
1 DIE HARD 4	
2 FANTASTIC FOUR BUG	5 TIYANAKS
3 TRANSFORMERS	6 DIE HARD 4
4 PARAISO	7 TRANSFORMERS

METRO EAST	
1 TRANSFORMERS	5 TRANSFORMERS
2 DIE HARD 4	6 DIE HARD 4
3 FANTASTIC FOUR	7 DIE HARD 4
4 PARAISO	8 TIYANAKS

NOVALICHES	
1 DIE HARD 4	4 TIYANAKS
2 DIE HARD 4	5 TRANSFORMERS
3 TRANSFORMERS	6 DIE HARD 4

PIONEER	
1 DIE HARD 4	3 DIE HARD
2 TRANSFORMERS	4 FANTASTIC FOUR

STA. ROSA	LIPA
1 DIE HARD 4	1 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS	2 TRANSFORMERS
3 FANTASTIC FOUR	3 THE INVISIBLE
4 DIE HARD 4	4 TIYANAKS
5 TIYANAKS	5 DIE HARD 4

DASMARIÑAS	IMUS
1 DIE HARD 4	1 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS	2 TRANSFORMERS
3 DIE HARD 4	3 DIE HARD 4
4 TIYANAKS	4 TIYANAKS
5 FANTASTIC FOUR	5 FANTASTIC FOUR
	6 MEET

ANGELES	TARLAC
1 DIE HARD 4	1 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS	2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TIYANAKS	3 THE INVISIBLE
4 DIE HARD 4	

STARMILLS	
1 DIE HARD 4	4 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS	5 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 TRANSFORMERS	6 DIE HARD 4

BACOLOD	ILOILO
1 DIE HARD 4	1 DIE HARD 4
2 TRANSFORMERS	2 TRANSFORMERS
3 DIE HARD 4	3 DIE HARD 4
4 RESERVE	4 THE INVISIBLE
5 THE INVISIBLE	5 TIYANAKS
6 TIYANAKS	6 TRANSFORMERS

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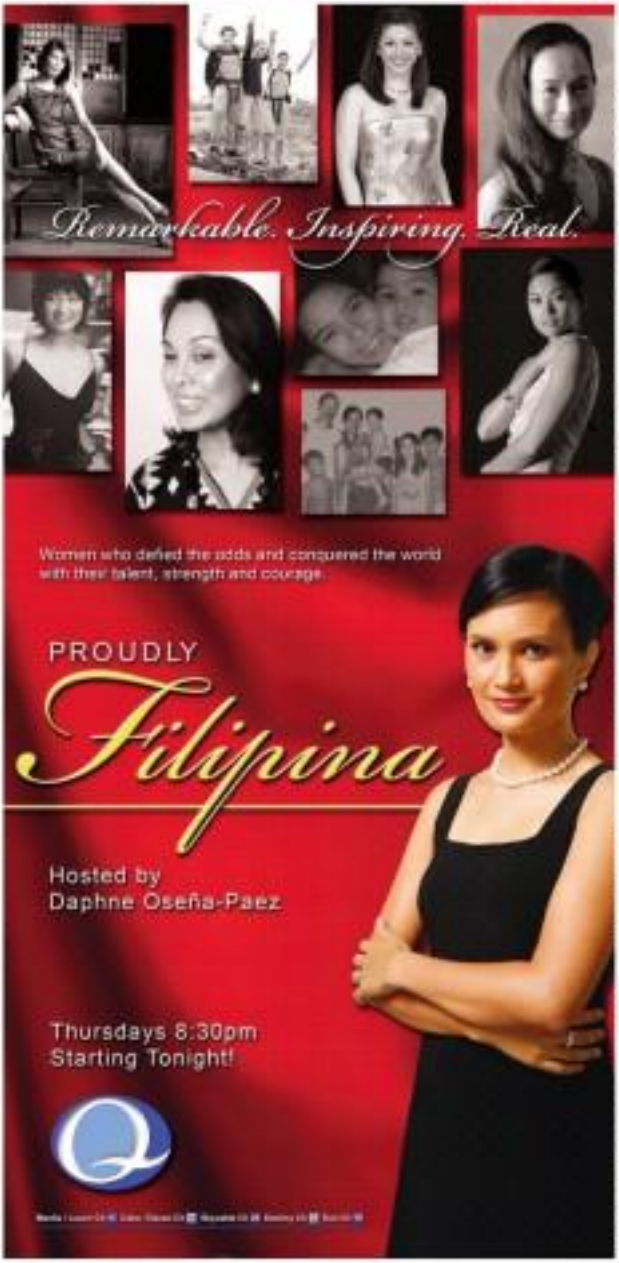
The brand-new 'Boy & Kris' show



TAKE FIVE

By Harmon B. Cruz

AT THE SECRET LAUNCH OF ABS-CBN2 new morning talk show, Kris Aquino said Boy Abunda gave up being solo to share the spotlight with her.

"Boy doesn't need me," Kris said. The show "Boy & Kris," replaces "Umagang ... simula sinol ka ... two and a half years.

Boy presumed, "It's no secret[illegible] giving up a solo show to be with Kris. When the idea came up, walang pagdududa, walang pangamba. I wanted to do it."

How is the show different from "The Buzz?"

Boy: We won't veer away from the format too much. Except now we're more intimate. I don't think we [still] have to ... prove our capabilities as hosts. We are now more concerned about ... influencing. [and] communicating good values to the audience.

Kris: The reason [in part] from being comfortable with who you are ... and happy with what you've become. What can [viewers] expect? Making tolos to opinion that wouldn't hurt others.

How do you feel about competing with GMA 7's "Eat?"

Boy: Competition doesn't have to be nasty. [tells Kris Bistro] is the wife of Ariel Olmoza, who is my cousin. She's all friends.

Kris, what would it take for you to forget the rift between you and Cristy Fermin ("The Buzz" co-star)?

Kris: I don't want to answer. If I say something she doesn't like, it's an issue across existing studios.

How did the two of you meet?

Kris: [Tito] manager Deby Sicile introduced us at Dawn Lorenzo about 18 years ago. I was still in college. [He wanted Boy to handle some of my publicity. If you mean as an actress vacation, that's 12 years—as old as Josh this February.]

Boy: The first thing I said of her was, "Ang pait nya," I was excited, kasi Catanduan Cty, sick. I'm always wanted to be rich Daughter.]

Have you ever quarreled?

Kris: Never. We try to be a good influence to one another. And we speak each other's heart.

Boy: I taught her how to cuss.

Are there things you'd want to change in each other?

Boy: With this friendship now, there's total respect. [for my under wrong decisions that I disagree with, but, I will always respect those decisions and stand by her.

Kris: There's one thing—the health. I know the benefits of an early-to-bed early-to-rise routine. That's what I've been telling him to do. Also, he stopped smoking for six-eight years ago.

How would you guess your friendship?

Kris: We would kill for each other.

Boy: I'd take a bullet for her.

Do you miss Kris on "The Buzz?"

Boy: Yes I do [kasi] It's prudent to just leave some things natural.

Kris: Tita Cristy Fermin [kasi] sabi nga, "Kris, kung kaya mong ang sarili mo sa "The Buzz," huwag mo ng pagkakaabalang [kasi] ang pamilya mo." She's right.

Amalia, Gretchen two of a kind

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Gorrejodd

LA AMALIA AND LA GRETCH ARE both screen goddesses of their respective generations. Even alyanas like them have trouble in paradise once in awhile. Here are the latest updates straight from Tita Boots's echo-breaks. Some secrets aren't shielded heart. (They are both one of the country at press time.)

Amalia Fuentes: "I'm thinking of suing for slander of affection against Jose's guards. That will show both of them to face me in court. Not many people know of the ... I want the public to know so that women and to the same problem ... court so raise can protect themselves. This could be a landmark case. It's very unusual for women to fight predators like Jose's mistress."

Gretchen Barretto: "I have learned to silence my guilt and shame. Yaya and I have gone beyond learning. We recognized, despite our faults, our stuff seems to go hours to each other. Waking up knowing we are flawed and just the same scrapping it. Simply becomes our love to bond to still be far bigger than our imperfect selves."

Oh my goddesses!

X-rated Xtine!

Christine Bayot seems to surf her rift with [illegible]'s former Kath-

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